

PRAVERS,

AND;

DEVOUT MEDITATIONS.

**DESIGNED TO ASSIST THE YOUNG CHRISTIAN
IN THE CULTIVATION OF A DEVOUT TEMPER ;**

BY THE,

REV. ROBERT MACGILL,

NIAGARA,

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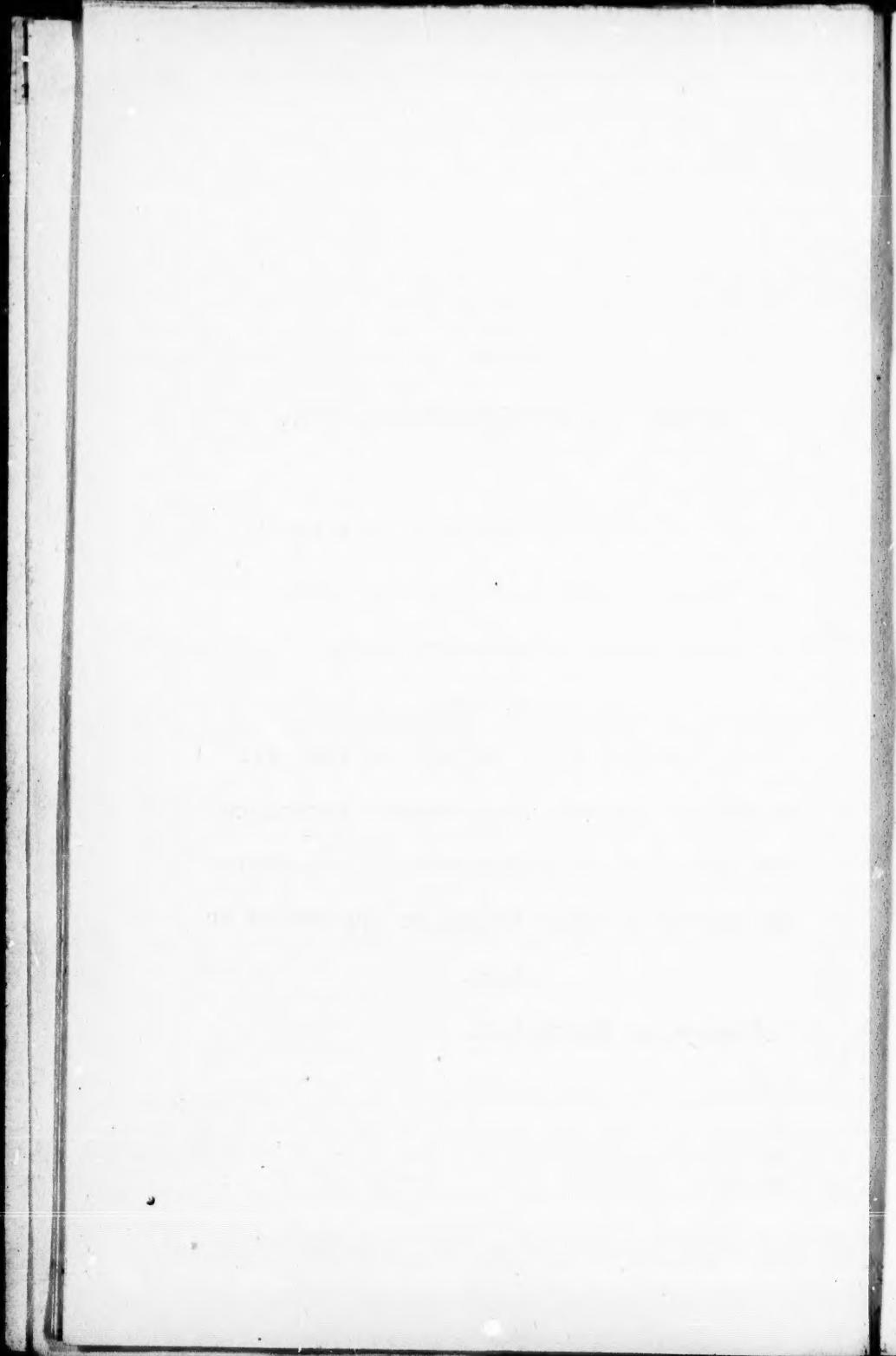
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Nov. 26, 1970.

TO THE
SESSION AND CONGREGATION
OF
ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, NIAGARA,
THE FOLLOWING PAGES ARE DEDICATED,
BY THEIR AFFECTIONATE PASTOR,
IN THE HOPE
THAT THE OCCASIONAL PERUSAL OF THEM MAY
REVIVE AND ENLIVEN THEIR DEVOUT AFFECTIONS,
AND ASSIST THE YOUNGER MEMBERS IN EXPRESSING
THE DESIRES OF THEIR HEARTS AT THE THRONE OF
GRACE.

Niagara, 1st March, 1842.



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NOTE.—*By slight alterations in the language, such as will at once be suggested to the thoughtful, these forms may be adapted either to the morning or evening, to the week day or the sabbath, to the closet or the family. When it is deemed proper particular paragraphs may be omitted, and others from the "special supplications" may be introduced. By such changes, with occasional enlargement appropriate to the peculiar circumstances of individuals, a profitable variety may be attained in private and domestic worship.*

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DEVOTIONAL REFLECTIONS ON SELECT
PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE, p. 145—184.

NOTE.—*The design of these paragraphs is to set before the young Christian a method of devout meditation on the holy scriptures. From the sacred volume the matter, and the language too, of prayer may best be drawn. The author therefore has done nothing more than express the sentiments awakened in his own mind on the first perusal of the passage. To have aimed at anything fine, or critical, or profound, would have been quite aside from his object. He would recommend to educated and serious youth the*

frequent composition of such devout exercises: the word of God itself will thus become their **PRA YER BOOK**, “and the tongue of the stammerers shall be ready to speak plainly.”—The verses, which have been selected from various sources, are introduced to aid the memory and to be expressed occasionally in song. Poetry and music have been constituted by divine appointment the handmaids of piety, and in availing ourselves of their aid, we receive at once delight and improvement.

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PRAYERS

FOR

THE SABBATH.

I.

Almighty, eternal and most merciful Lord our God, who art exalted far above all glory and praise, it is the desire of our hearts to consecrate this hallowed day in thy worship : Thou dwellest on high, and thy glory is above the heavens, yet thou humblest thyself to behold the things that are in the earth. We will go into thy tabernacles : we will worship at thy footstool. Arise, O Lord, into thy rest : thou and the ark of thy strength. Let thy priests be clothed with righteousness, and let thy saints shout for joy. Fill us with a deep and self-abasing sense of our spiritual vileness and guilt, through which we are rendered unworthy and disqualified to draw near unto thee. But endue us also with an humble trust in the promised succors of thy grace, which have ever been richly bestowed on all

who truly seek thee. Invited in the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, we now present ourselves suppliants at thy mercy seat, entreating thee of thy great and unmerited goodness to pour out upon us the spirit of grace and supplication, and to do for us far above all that we can ask or think, for his sake in whom thou art always well pleased.

Lord, God, Almighty, who art, who wast, and who art to come, the source of all being, perfection, and blessedness, we lift up our souls unto thee in adoration and praise, though with an overwhelming sense of our insufficiency for so high a duty. Thou art from everlasting to everlasting, and we cannot number the years of thy duration : the unbounded space of the heaven of heavens cannot contain thee, and we are not able to conceive of thine immensity. Whither shall we go from thy spirit ? or whither shall we flee from thy presence ? If we ascend up into heaven thou art there : if we make our bed in hell, behold thou art there. If we take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there shall thy hand lead us, and thy right hand shall hold us. If we say, surely the darkness shall cover us, even the night shall be light about us. Yea, the darkness hideth not from thee, but the night shineth as the day ; the darkness and the light are both alike to thee. Such knowledge is too wonderful for us, it is high we cannot attain to it—we cannot find out the Almighty unto perfection. But though we cannot fully comprehend the eternity of thine existence, nor the unlimited range of thine omniscience, nor the thunder of thy power, nor the inexhaustibleness of thy benignity, we nevertheless adore and bless thee, the unsearchable Jehovah, that

we are able to discover numberless outbeamings of thine infinite and unsearchable glory. We behold it in the splendor of heaven's canopy—in the sun, moon, and stars, which thou hast ordained: we behold it in this fair and beautiful world, which thou hast crowned with thy riches: we behold it in the great and wide sea: the mighty and harmonious movements of the systems of the Universe testify of the Creator: all elements are obedient to thy command: thou makest the winds thy chariot, and the clouds are the dust of thy feet: thou utterest thy voice in thunder, and the nations quake: thou sendest rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, and thy people bless thee. Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men. But when we contemplate thee as the Lord and governor of the world, what reason have we to reverence and fear thee, seeing thou art arrayed in unspotted Justice, not sparing the guilty; what reason too have we humbly to confide in thee, seeing thou shewest mercy to thousands of them that love thee and keep thy commandments. Thou hast given thy Son, to be the surety and mediator of a lost race; and when none could deliver his brother from death, or give unto God a ransom for him, thou didst make Him who knew no sin, a sin offering for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Thus most gracious and merciful Father, we bless and adore thee as our Creator and Lord, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of us in him: and while the perpetual and refreshing streams of thy providential bounty call for our constant gratitude and praise, the life-giving stream flowing from the Re-

deemer's cross demands from us a deeper gratitude, a more fervent hymn. Oh that we were able to comprehend with all saints, what is the length and breadth, and depth and height, and to know the love of God, that passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God.

But, O God most holy, O Lord most righteous, we confess with humility and self-abasement, the blindness of unbelief which sin hath brought over the soul, by which we are rendered forgetful of thee, unconscious of our dependance upon thee, and disinclined to worship and obey thee. Though we live and move and have our being in thee, we do not habitually recognize thee as the source of life: pensioners on thy bounty we are yet daily offending our benefactor: the days that are successively added to our forfeited life are added only through the prevailing mediation of our divine intercessor, yet do we too much forget to love and bless him, as the length of our days: and, Oh, with what guilt are we chargeable through the abuse of thy mercies: immoderate in our enjoyment of the good things of this life, we have set our hearts inordinately upon them; we have suffered the most precious opportunities of intellectual and spiritual improvement to escape unimproved; we have not prized, as we ought, fellowship with thee in meditation and prayer; our sabbaths have been seasons of indolence and formality; we have entered thy sanctuary without due preparation, and returned from it unblessed: and now after years during which we have professed to know thee, and to walk before thee in the ways of thine appointment, we cannot come to thy mercy seat but with self-upbraiding

and painfully depressed with a sense of guilt : Lord I am vile, what shall I answer thee ? I will lay my hand upon my mouth and cry out unclean, unclean.

O God, with whom there is mercy that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption that thou mayest be sought unto—remember not against us our former iniquities : let thy tender mercies speedily prevent us for we are brought very low. Help us, O God of our salvation, for the glory of thy name : and deliver us, and purge away our sins for thy name's sake. We are self-condemned, and condemned of thee : we are prisoners—but, O the depth both of the mercy and forbearance of God, we are prisoners of hope. Let the sighing of the prisoner come before thee, according to the greatness of thy power : preserve thou those that are appointed to die. So we thy people, and sheep of thy pasture, will give thee thanks for ever : we will show forth thy praise to all generations. Give us, O Lord, a true sight of our sins, and a deep sense of our guilt. Set our iniquities in array before us, that we may feel their aggravations and groan under their burden ;—that we may discern their odiousness and repent, abhorring ourselves in dust and ashes. Alas, we cannot reckon their number ; we cannot estimate their enormity ; we cannot suitably realize the terror of that doom which may justly overtake us at any moment. But, O most gracious and most merciful, we can pray thee in thy mercy to avert it ; to endue us with thy grace that we may henceforth break off our sins by repentance. Spirit of grace, renew our souls in righteousness ; revive within us, and enlighten, the directive power of conscience : lead us to a knowledge of the truth

and sanctify us by its power : Now may the God of hope, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost : and may the life that we henceforth live in the flesh, be a life of faith in the Son of God, who loved us and gave himself for us.

For implanting and perfecting this spiritual life, we humbly pray that an especial blessing may rest this day, on the preaching of the word, and the administration of the sacraments throughout the whole Christian Church. Let the means ordained for the conversion of the world, and the edifying of the body of Christ, be accompanied in every place with demonstration of the spirit and power. No power but thine could create the world, and no power but thine can redeem it. Gird thy sword upon thy thigh, O most mighty : with thy glory and thy majesty : and in thy majesty ride prosperously, because of truth, and meekness and righteousness. Usher the mandate to all the ministers of thy pleasure, "prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a high way for our God." Every valley shall be exalted, and every mountain and hill shall be made low : and the crooked places shall be made straight and the rough places plain : and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together : for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it. Fulfil, O Lord, according to the faithfulness of thy covenant, thine eternal purpose of mercy and love. Assert thy rightful sovereignty over the kingdoms of the world, and in the hearts of men. Send forth thy spirit, as once upon the chaos of the material world, but now to brood upon the disorders of the moral ; that supreme

love and holy obedience may be revived in the souls that sin hath alienated from thee ; that thine eye may yet behold the earth peopled with a race of regenerated beings sanctified through thy spirit and accepted in the beloved.

Most merciful God, our heavenly Father, who hath promised to hear the prayers and intercessions of thy people and hath ordained supplication as a means through which thy blessing shall descend on the suppliant, and on those for whom it is made, we do now in obedience to thy command, and with humble trust in thy great goodness, pray for the peace and prosperity of thy Church. Be a wall of fire around her and the glory in the midst of her. May no weapon formed against her ever prosper. Let not the gates of hell prevail against her ; but may one generation praise thy works to another and declare thy mighty acts; may they speak of the glory of thy kingdom, and sing of thy righteousness. Incline the opulent and powerful of the earth to build up her walls ; and to beautify her palaces. Establish her as the pillar and the ground of the truth. Raise up within her a succession of faithful men, who shall be perfected for the work of the ministry and for the edifying of the body of Christ ; who, endued with the meekness and gentleness of Christ shall warn every man and teach every man in all wisdom, that they may present every man spotless before God. Remove error and corruption from the midst of her. Inspire her members with the spirit of truth, unity, and righteousness. Unite the prayers and the exertions of all who fear thee in behalf of those portions of the human family who are yet sitting in

darkness and in the region and shadow of death. Dispose us, according to the ability given us, to send the written word and the living messenger to make known among the heathen the unsearchable riches of Christ. And as from thy sure word of prophecy we conclude that the return of the Jews shall precede the coming in of the fulness of the Gentiles, we pray thee to cast a pitying eye on thine ancient people in their reproachful dispersion: remove the veil of blindness and unbelief from their hearts: may they look on him whom their fathers rejected, and embrace him as the only hope of Israel, the Prince of peace: and may the increasing brightness which their return shall give to that testimony which thou hast borne concerning thy Son, subdue the world to the obedience of the faith, that all the ends of the earth may behold the salvation of God.

Sovereign ruler of heaven and earth, we humbly beseech thee to regard with favor the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, with all the Colonies and dependencies thereunto belonging. Over every part of this widely extended empire may the sun of righteousness arise and shine for ever with healing in his beams. Alas, O God, we are not worthy of the high honor and distinction thou hast put upon us as a nation. Bearing the christian name in how many instances have we foully stained it? How much ignorance and depravity prevails among all ranks and classes of the people. And how much heathenism is found on the outskirts of the empire which we have made no effectual attempt to remove. Lead us, O God, as a people to repent of national sins that thine anger may be turned away

from us. Let the nation's intelligence, and wealth and power, be consecrated to thy glory, and the universal well-being of man. For blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord : and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance. We fervently pray that our Sovereign may ever seek thy counsel and protecting care, never denied to princes ruling in thy fear. Raised to a high station may she always be distinguished for exalted goodness, and may the blessings of her reign extend to distant generations. Encircle the throne with wise, faithful and patriotic men, whose constant study will be to conduct public affairs according to the law of God, and for the benefit of all. Make our judges just, our exactors righteous, our magistrates faithful, the rich among us bounteous, and the poor contented. And O thou King of Kings whose sceptre is a right sceptre, restrain the evil passions of men, and heal the contentions of a jarring world. Incline the nations of the earth to dwell in amity and peace. Let education and all the arts that tend to improve and embellish our nature be advanced, and may pure and undefiled religion shed its divine influence over all.

And now, O God, as at all times, we would yield ourselves up to the tender sympathies of the good, and remember them that are in bonds as bound with them ; and them which suffer adversity as being ourselves also in the body. Have compassion on the sons and daughters of affliction. In the time of trouble hide them in thy pavilion. Give patience to endure ; submission to await ; and grace to profit by thy chastisements ;--and when the set time is come grant them a happy deliverance out of all their tribulations.

With an humble and grateful trust in thy mercy and faithfulness, we present these our prayers and intercessions unto thee, in the name of our Lord and Saviour; beseeching thee to grant the good we have failed to ask, and to pardon us wherein we have asked amiss: summing up our imperfect petitions in the words that our Lord hath taught us, we pray, saying—Our Father, &c.

II.

Almighty and eternal God, grant us at this time the grace of thy Holy Spirit, that our praises and prayers may proceed from prepared hearts, and be accepted through our great high priest and intercessor, Jesus Christ. Fill us with deep humility from a full sense of our sin and unworthiness, and from a holy veneration of thine infinite majesty: inspire us also with a joyful confidence in the one mediator between God & man, that thus self-abased, and yet humbly confiding in thy mercy, our prayers may come up before thee as the morning and the evening sacrifice.

What trust and confidence may we not repose in thee, thou creator, preserver and benefactor of mankind: since in all that boundless universe that thou hast called into existence, every element, and every creature, is under thy controul, and when thou commandest they are the obedient ministers of thy pleasure. The thunder and the storm obey thy voice. Thou stillest the noise of the seas, the noise of their waves, and the tumult of the people. By thine unceasing agency all the changes

of material nature are effected, and day and night, seed-time and harvest, summer and winter, do not cease. Through thy benignant power myriads of beings are every moment rising from the bosom of nothing into the enjoyments of existence. Every beast of the forest is thine, and the cattle upon a thousand hills. Thou hast formed the great and wide sea, and all the tribes that people its depths. These all wait upon thee, thou givest them their meat in due season ; that thou givest them they gather ; thou openest thine hand, they are filled with good : thou hidest thy face, they are troubled ; thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their dust. O Lord, how manifold are thy works! in wisdom hast thou made them all : the earth is full of thy riches.

With what fervent gratitude should we adore thee, O thou dispenser of life and happiness, for that elevated rank which thou hast assigned us in terrestrial creation. Endowed with the high distinction of reason, thou hast placed us in this lower world to behold thy glory, to love, worship and obey thee. The inheritors of an immortal nature, thou hast so arranged the circumstances of our lot here upon earth, as to render it a school of discipline and preparation for a more perfect condition of being : every object in creation, every event in life, every page in the records of inspiration, is fraught with lessons of sacred wisdom. For thine eternal power and godhead is made manifest in the things

at thou hast made; the changes of life proclaim thy universal dominion ; and all the institutions of the spiritual kingdom of our blessed Redeemer remind us of the end of our being, and prepare us for fulfilling it.

But, O Lord our God, most holy and just, these very advantages, forgotten as they have been and misimproved by us, aggravate the guilt of our ignorance and ungodliness. It is known to thy omniscient mind, it is known to our own consciences, that in much of our departed time, thou hast not been in all our thoughts. Our understanding blinded by sin did not behold thy manifested glory ; our hearts, debased by corruption, refused the homage which is due unto thy name ; and even, though in the exercise of a mercy which transcends our highest thoughts, thou hast sent thy Son into our world and revealed through him the path of eternal life, yet have we been choosing death in the error of our ways—since we have not been persuaded to seek life from him who died for us.

Righteous Father, we cannot urge any plea to excuse or extenuate this criminal alienation of what is justly thine. Our inconsideration aggravates our guilt. Our high privileges, while they magnify thy mercy in the gift, in the misimprovement they demonstrate our exceeding sinfulness. We are indeed a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evil doers, children that are corrupters : we have forsaken the Lord, we have provoked the holy one of Israel unto anger, we have gone away backward. Though thou hast nourished and brought us up as children, yet we have rebelled against thee. The richest bounties of thy providence abused, the richest overtures of thy grace neglected, testify that our iniquities have reached above the heavens.

Lord, God, merciful and gracious, long suffering and slow to anger, it is of thy mercies that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail

not. Oh, what an infinitude of mercy that must be, which has spared us amidst such great and lengthened provocations. Only the all prevailing intercession of Him who is mighty to save and strong to deliver, could thus have stayed the hand of justice. Be not wroth against us O Lord, neither remember our iniquities for ever, for we mourn over the sins that we have committed, and are ashamed of the pleasures we have chosen. Make us truly penitent, obedient, and watchful, that we may never return again unto folly: encompassed with danger on every side, we tremble for the future. Spirit of all grace, enlighten, convince, and convert our souls. Cause us to mourn bitterly over our iniquities. May we loathe ourselves, repenting in dust and ashes. May the remembrance of our past ways so afflict us, that we may return to thy testimonies, and never again forsake them. O most righteous God, in reviewing the past, we may well be clothed with self-abasement. Conscious of our own inconstancy and weakness, knowing the enemies with whom we must enter into warfare, aware of the seductive influence of sinful pleasure, and of our own depraved inclinations still unsubdued, we tremble lest our enemies should complete our ruin. Gracious God, say to the fearful heart, be strong—be bold. Make thy grace sufficient for us; thy strength perfect in our weakness. Enlighten the dark; sanctify the impure; make us wholly a new creation in Christ Jesus. Whatever good thou hast wrought in us confirm. The Lord perfect that which concerneth us. Conduct us safe through every danger, and present us at last spotless and with exceeding joy, before God even the Father.

And that this blessed consummation may be attained, let the gracious influence of thy spirit assist and bless us in all the religious exercises in which we shall this day be engaged. Enable us with spiritual affections to devote the whole day to the public and private exercises of thy worship. When we assemble in the house of prayer, commune with us from off thy mercy seat. Refresh our memories and hearts with the truths of the gospel. Cause us to discern and feel their importance, that we may experience their saving power. May they be engraven upon the heart and nourish within us a life of faith in the Son of God; in whose name we present our prayers, summing them up in the words that he hath taught us, saying—Our Father, &c.

III.

Almighty and Eternal God, the creator and preserver of all things, who hast formed the various orders of intelligent beings both in heaven and earth, to adore, worship and enjoy Thee, we desire now to draw near unto thy throne of grace with the offerings of our praise and adoration. Thy essential presence filleth immensity; thy duration is from everlasting to everlasting. Thy power no finite creature can resist; thy wisdom no finite being can fully comprehend; thy benignity is as unfathomable as space, and thy loving-kindness is for evermore upon them that fear Thee. The vastness of creation is but an imperfect type of thy majesty. The perpetuity of the everlasting hills is but a faint

emblem of thine eternity. For they shall perish, but thou endurest. After the revolution of unnumbered ages, and when the present fabric of nature is at thy fiat destroyed, thou remainest the same, without the least variableness or shadow of turning.

Because thou art arrayed in every attribute of perfection, it is our duty and felicity to love, and serve thee. Thou art the constant and omniscient witness of every affection that arises in the soul. No desire felt or uttered by any of thy creatures, can be unknown, or unheard by Thee. Thy regard for man, even for sinful man, has prompted thee to every kindness, and thy power is equal to thy regard. And it hath pleased thee in the dispensation of thy mercy according to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ, to establish a throne of grace, every where and at every moment accessible, to which the humble and contrite may repair, and obtain mercy and find grace to help them in every time of need. We reverently repose our hope and trust in thy mercy and faithfulness. We cherish the assurance that through Christ our Mediator, thou wilt do for us far beyond what we are able to ask or think; and we affectionately confide in thine own gracious declaration—"that if our earthly parents know to give good gifts unto their children, much more shall our Father in heaven give his holy spirit, and every good gift unto them that ask him."

Encouraged thus to draw nigh unto Thee, as children to a Father, able and ready to help us, we would humbly entreat Thee, to enable us to form just and worthy conceptions of the holiness of thy character and the justice of thy government. Thy word declares that thou art of purer eyes than to

behold evil, and workers of iniquity shall not dwell with thee : it declares that thou art angry with the wicked every day, and wilt by no means spare the guilty. These discoveries of what thou art, and of what thou wilt do, are of infinite moment to us ; for we are miserable sinners—committing every day and every hour, that which provokes thy displeasure ; and while in time past there has accumulated over our heads a load of guilt that we cannot cancel, and for which we cannot atone, we feel that there is actually existing within us, both an inborn and an acquired depravity which wholly disinclines us to love thee and keep thy commandments : we feel a law in our members warring against the law of our minds, so that when we would do good evil is present with us. Oh, that through the teaching of thy holy spirit our conscience were fully enlightened that we might feel the extent of our sin and wretchedness. Oh, that the multitude of our iniquities were set in array before us in all their aggravations and consequences, that knowing the terrors of the Lord, we might exclaim from the depths of contrition and penitence, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from this body of sin and death. We do now look up to thee, O God, for grace to work in us this contrite and penitent disposition. Christ is exalted to give repentance unto Israel ; it is the office of the holy spirit whom he hath promised to send unto us to convince of sin : Blessed Jesus, bestow on us this gift ; Holy Spirit, work in us this conviction ; that hereafter we may be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Instructed thus in the ruin that sin hath wrought

in and around us, may we also be instructed in the remedy which thy boundless mercy has provided for it. May we receive it as a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptation that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners ;—that having made peace by the blood of his cross, he is now reconciling a guilty world unto himself not imputing to them that believe their trespasses ;—that by him all that believe are justified from all things from which they could not be justified by the law of Moses. O that we may be found complete in him, not having our own righteousness which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith, that we may know him and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death, if by any means we may attain unto the resurrection of the dead. For the attainment of this blessed end endue us with a living faith in the Redeemer ; engrave thy law on the fleshly tablet of the heart ; let divine truth exert over us a sanctifying power ; may Christ dwell in our hearts by faith, that we being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God. O desirable consummation ; the perfection of our nature, the completion of our bliss ; the fulfilment of the eternal purpose of creating and redeeming love

Invited on this holy day, the perpetual memorial of the finished work of redemption, to contemplate throughout their ample range the benignant purpo-

ses of our merciful Creator, we fervently implore that our souls may be so illumined with heavenly light, and so filled with filial love, that we may be prepared to behold thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. We adore thee for the earliest promise of a saviour given to the offending representatives of the human family to mitigate the bitterness of that doom, which on account of their transgression, thou didst pronounce on them and their race ;—we thank thee for the brightening intimations of the coming shiloh vouchsafed to the patriarchs ;—we thank thee for the more explicit predictions given to the ancient church, though the inspired prophets, who foretold the deliverance of Israel, and the glory that should follow ;—we praise and magnify thy name that in the appointed time these predictions met their complete fulfilment in Jesus of Nazareth, declared to be the Son of God with power by his resurrection from the dead—God manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, believed on in the world, received up into glory ;—We praise and bless thee for that success which hath already attended the preaching of his gospel in every region, and for the sure and certain hope that thy saving health shall be known among all nations. Glory and blessing and praise be ascribed to him that sitteth on the throne and to the Lamb forever. For surely mercy will triumph ; sin and death shall be destroyed ; righteousness and peace shall yet reign upon the earth ; the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. Filled with these grateful recollections and rejoicing in these exalted hopes, we ascribe the glory to Him, of whom and through whom and to

whom are all things, God over all, blessed for evermore.

While thus with grateful hearts we present the oblation of our praise for all the glorious designs of the covenant of mercy, we thank thee that sufficient means for their accomplishment have also been provided. The Prince of Peace reigneth, and all things are put in subjection under him, for Thou hast made him head over all things to the Church. All the changes in the civil kingdoms of the world are subordinate to the interests of his spiritual kingdom, and the dispensations of providence become by thy appointment dispensations of grace. But we more especially thank thee for the means ordained for the conversion of the world to the faith and hope of our Lord Jesus Christ. Thy gospel is preached to our sinful race, the ambassadors of Christ are sent on their high embassy to beseech men in Christ's stead to be reconciled unto God; thy church opens wide her portals as a place of refuge from the wrath to come; and the balm applied there by the divine physician is all-powerful to heal the wound that sin has inflicted on our immortal nature. Heavenly Father, we thank thee for the human agency that thou hast been pleased to employ in the work of redemption, but more for that divine influence of the spirit of grace from which all its efficacy and success proceed. We would render our sincere and heartfelt homage to this Comforter. Let his gracious influence descend in rich effusion, to create a holy nation, a chosen generation, a royal priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices to God, acceptable through Jesus Christ our Lord.

While engaged in the instituted ordinances of thy house this day we humbly ask the promised succors of thy grace. Meet with us as thou hast met with thy people heretofore in thy holy temple. Our sinful nature renders us unfit to sustain and unworthy to enjoy the unclouded vision of thy glory ; but reveal to us more vividly such views of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ, as we are able to sustain. Let his divine excellencies be so present to our thoughts that our souls may be filled with the highest admiration and holy love. Eternal Father, give a saving efficacy to these sacred institutions as they are observed among us. Inspire our prayers and accept them ; make the reading and preaching of thy word spirit and life ; give to divine truth its rightful ascendancy over us ; may our faith give a present subsistence to unseen and eternal realities ; and choosing them for our portion, may we in thine abundant mercy attain to the full possession of them in heaven. * * *

IV.

Most holy and ever-adorable Jehovah, who dwellest in the high and the holy place, who yet descendest to behold the things that are done upon the earth, and to dwell with the broken and contrite in heart, we now approach thy throne of grace acknowledging our unworthiness, and confessing our sins. It is only in the character of sinful and guilty

beings that we can draw near unto thee : for if we would justify ourselves, our own mouths shall condemn us; were we to say we are perfect it shall also prove us perverse. Our heart has been polluted, and our life unholy. Nor has this been the character of a part of our life only, but of the whole. Our recollection cannot extend to any period in which we could challenge thine approbation for motives perfectly pure, or for an obedience exactly conformable to the law that is exceeding broad. Reaching to our thoughts how searchingly does it expose their deplorable vanity; prescribing the government of our tongue how mournfully does it expose our vain and unprofitable conversation ; as the rule of our action, in what terrible array does it set before our conscience the ungodly deeds which we have ungodly committed. O thou searcher of hearts, we would in thy presence open the book of the law out of which we shall in the last day be judged, and craving the assistance of thy spirit, we would now out of it judge ourselves, that we may not be condemned in the day of the Lord. We plead guilty, because we have not loved thee with our whole heart and soul and mind—for thou art justly entitled to the supreme regard of all thy creatures. Infinite, eternal, and unchangeable in thy being and attributes, thou art possessed of every perfection that is fitted to call forth our highest admiration and love. Our existence is derived from thee, and who can estimate the value of the boon ? Our rational and moral powers come of thy inspiration, and how can we prize sufficiently these gifts that raise us to so exalted a place in the scale of intelligent creation ? Thou hast assigned our birth in an age of

high improvement, and in a country possessing peculiar advantages ;—above all these, do we rank our Christian privileges, which on this sabbath, and on numerous sabbaths departed thou hast vouchsafed to us, with their rich profusion of benefits connected with our present state, and their still richer benefits connected with the world beyond the grave. Yet, ah Lord God, for these blessings we have not been duly grateful, nor have we faithfully improved them to thy glory. Unmindful of the hand that hath dispensed them, and of the purpose for which they have been bestowed, it is our sin and wretchedness, that in so large a degree we have received the grace of God in vain.—Defective thus in our love and duty to thee, our conduct towards our fellow men has not been less defective. Far, very far have we been from acting in conformity with the golden rule of loving our neighbors as ourselves—of loving our brethren even as Christ loved us. We confess that envy, hatred, and uncharitableness, have too often dwelt in our hearts ; that selfishness hath rendered us too indifferent to the welfare of our fellow-men, and we have not done them good according to our opportunity ; that in numerous instances we have even done them injury—especially injury of a spiritual nature by our ungodly example, injury beyond our power of repairing. O Lord God, our experience establishes the fact, so mournfully apparent in the history of our race, that when supreme love to thee is extinguished in the soul, benevolence to man can have only a very imperfect existence. We come before thee therefore making penitent confession of our great and aggravated sinfulness. We confess not

merely forgetfulness but disaffection : not merely the omission of duty but the commission of sin : not merely disloyalty in heart but rebellion in act.

Surely it is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed and because his compassions fail not : surely we are the monuments of thy long suffering patience, and if the obligations thence arising could move the soul to repentance then would we repent. But, ah Lord, it is not thy goodness alone that can melt our hearts, else had they never been hardened. Thy spirit must break the rock in pieces ; thy regenerating grace must take the stony out of our hearts and give us hearts of flesh ; the love of Christ, apprehended by a soul having a conscious participation in it, must kindle the fervor of a love within us that shall never die. Reveal thy glory to us in the face of Jesus Christ. In him thy *holiness* appears to us in a yet diviner purity ; in him thy *justice* is displayed in still more awful and unchangeable characters ; in him thy *mercy* shines with most melting sweetness, and *love* beams "utterably full of glory and of God." We tremble with holy fear in the presence of thine unspotted holiness ; we are afraid in the contemplation of thy justice, even though the awfulness of its outbeaming from the eternal throne is shaded by the rainbow of peace that encircles it : But thy mercy in Jesus Christ our Lord dispels our fears, and with adoring gratitude and humble hope, we set our seals to the covenant of reconciliation. Most gracious and ever merciful Father, receive us in the embrace of thine everlasting love. Thou art the Creator of our bodies, be also the redeemer of our souls : be our sustainer in the path of faith and obedience ; as

the God of all grace and consolation be our guide through the valley of tears : Be our sun in the day of darkness : Be our shield in the perils of warfare : Conduct us by thy counsel while we live ; and administer to us in our departing hour, an abundant entrance into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

But now do we hear thy warning voice, "take heed lest through unbelief ye should come short of the heavenly rest." Spiritual enemies surround us ; perils are thickly strewn over our path ; we are every day in danger of falling among thieves who would wound our peace, and rob us of our crown. But, eternal praise be ascribed to that divine foresight and compassion which has provided for all our dangers and wants. Thou hast instituted ordinances in thy spiritual kingdom, that the channels of grace might be always open ; thou hast given and that brethren watch over each other in love. Thou hast commanded thy ministering servants ^{the} for the souls committed to their charge as they that must give account. O thou master of assemblies grant that thy worshippers waiting upon thee in the appointed way may obtain the promised blessing. May they enjoy fellowship with the Father and with the Son Jesus Christ. With holy fervor, with confiding humility may thy people offer their thanksgivings, and make known their wants unto Thee. When thine ambassadors declare their high message, arm thine own word with the power of thine own spirit. Let the gainsayer yield to the convictions of truth ; let those who receive it be made to love it ; may those who have tasted of the good word of God become rooted and grounded

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in the faith ; may thy grace be adapted to the various characters and conditions of thy children; and in their several spheres may they bring forth the fruits of righteousness, and always display the sweet attractions of a holy life, that through the gospel thus preached and thus exemplified pure and undefiled religion may pervade and bless the world.

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V.

Almighty and most merciful God we approach the throne of thy grace as sinners, trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath opened up a way of access, having entered into the holiest of all, there to appear in the presence of God for us. Our only hope is in him who is the days-man betwixt us, laying his hand upon both ; reconciling thee to the sinner by his expiatory death, and the sinner to thee by the dispensation of his spirit, and his own continual and all prevailing intercession.

Eternal praise be ascribed unto thy great and glorious name that the joyous tidings of the gospel of reconciliation hath been proclaimed unto us. We have heard them by the hearing of the ear ; may we also receive them with a believing heart. Endue us with a wise and spiritual discernment that we may hear thy voice speaking in the scriptures ; and may their sacred and momentous lessons come to us not in word only, but in power and in the Holy Ghost and in much assurance.

While we fervently pray for this saving apprehension of the word of life, we thank thee for the

humble trust that we have that our suit will be heard, because thou hast promised to make thy word spirit and life and that it shall not return unto thee void, but shall prosper in the thing whereunto thou hast sent it: and we believe that the same Spirit through whose inspiration it was given, will still accompany it with a divine energy and make it the power of God unto salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. Let his gracious influence be shed abroad upon every worshipper in the observance of the appointed ordinances. Let saving grace prepare many a heart for the reception of the incorruptible seed. Wherever it is sown may it be watered with the dew of heaven, and bring forth abundantly the fruits of righteousness to the praise and glory of God.

O Lord, we humbly beseech thee, to remove every hindrance from our souls, that might prevent the entrance, or in any way destroy the influence of the word of life. Corruption produces unbelief, and unbelief rejects thy testimony and leads us away from thee. Overpower this unbelief by the evidence of irresistible truth. Enlighten our understanding and conscience, that their testimony respecting the depravity of man, and our alienation from the life of God, may correspond with the declarations of thy word. Make us tremble under the consciousness of thy displeasure. May the arrows of conviction pierce our spirit, and lead us with a proper solicitude to look forward to the judgment seat of Christ. And forbid, most gracious God, that the heart of the daughter of thy people should be healed slightly: forbid that any of us should speak peace to ourselves, ere thou hast removed condemnation, and conferred peace. Rather let

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the soul endure its compunctions sorrow, until sin be felt in all its bitterness and enormity ; until the cross of Christ be exceedingly endeared as our only hope ; until redeeming love be felt in all its sweet attraction, enabling thy children with unutterable gratitude to exclaim, "I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord."

Holy Father, let those who are living a life of faith in the Son of God, be continually enriched with thy heavenly grace, that they may evermore display the energy of a more abundant life. Let such as have tasted of the good word of God and of the powers of the world to come go on unto perfection. Reveal to us more brightly thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ. May devout meditation on thy holiness encrease our holy fear ; may just views of thine inflexible justice as the righteous lawgiver, enforce upon us the immutable obligations of thy law ; may a grateful sense of thy merciful condescension win our hearts to a more affectionate confidence in thee; may the Saviour's mediatorial power and glory serve to banish our guilty fears ; let every manifestation of thine infinite love kindle and nourish within us a supreme and ever growing love to thee. Conduct us to a fuller experimental knowledge of that divine truth "God is love ; and they that dwell in love dwell in God, and God in them."

And as thou hast gathered into one family those whom thou hast called in the gospel of Jesus Christ, we humbly pray that thy grace may be poured out on thy church universal that she may fulfil the ends of her high vocation. May she ever hold fast the truth in righteousness ; may she contend earnestly

for the faith once delivered to the saints, and combine all her prayers, and all her energy, to secure for it an ascendancy throughout the wide world. May those that fear thy name dwell together in the unity of the spirit and in the bond of peace, and by love serve one another. Let thy priests be clothed with salvation. May they be deeply skilled in the word and doctrine, and able to communicate it to the people with affection and power. Raise up and qualify those helps and governments who shall preserve the order and purity of thy house, ruling with all diligence and fidelity in the fear and love of God : and may a teachable, a humble, a submissive spirit pervade the body of Christ, which is his church, that every member, according to the grace of God given unto him, may glorify thee in his appointed sphere.

We look forward with humble hope and trust to that glorious era, spoken of in the sure word of prophecy when the church shall encircle the globe. Assured that the triumph of the gospel is the triumph of truth and righteousness, the source of all perfection and felicity to man, we rejoice in hope of its glory to be revealed. Our souls do magnify the Lord, our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour, on account of every event that betokens the latter-day glory. We thank thee, O Lord, for that measure of zeal and liberality that has been awakened in many portions of thy church, and which has been directed not only to the promulgation of the gospel at home, but to its extension into the yet unenlightened territories of heathenism. O let the success of both run parallel. Let a deeper piety at home kindle a more earnest desire of imparting to heath-

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en lands a knowledge of the unsearchable riches of Christ. Let a deeper personal experience of the infinite value of the gospel, both to the present and eternal well-being of mankind, prompt thy children to communicate it to the destitute ; and if it please thee, O most gracious God, to grant high success to the missionaries of the cross among those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, let that success return in blessing upon the lands by whose prayers and beneficence, families on families, and tribes on tribes, are brought within the Christian fold.

On this hallowed day let these our humble supplications for the church and the world mingle before the mercy seat with the prayers of millions and be presented before thee with acceptance by our exalted redeemer. His is the kingdom whose extension we desire ; his is the power on which we depend ; his is the glory we seek to exalt : and now in the words that he hath taught us would we sum up our imperfect supplications, "Our Father &c.

VI.

Ever blessed and most merciful God, who art to be had in reverence by all those who would approach unto thee, let thy holy spirit now prepare us to draw near unto thee in an acceptable manner. We feel our unworthiness of this privilege : we deplore our unpreparedness to enjoy it aright. How dark are our views of thy nature and perfections ! How insensible are we of thine infinite condescen-

sion in deigning to permit sinful men to hold converse with thee ! Surrounded as thou art with ineffable glory, and worshipped by those pure and exalted spirits who enjoy the supreme felicity of thine immediate presence, how grateful should we be that thou humblest thyself to behold the things that are done upon the earth ! Father of lights enlighten our souls with the revelation of thy mercy and truth in Jesus Christ. God of love, shed abroad thy love in our hearts by the Holy Ghost given to us, that our worship of thee may indeed be the supreme homage of the heart, and not what it has too often heretofore been, the mere utterance of the lips in which the heart was not moved. What, O Lord, can give life to our souls, but thine all creating energy ? Say unto us with a voice that shall be heard, awake thou that sleepest and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light—light that shall conduct thee to a sin pardoning God and to the joys of an endless life. How miserable, how dark, that life which is spent in opposition to thee and under thy wrath : How sunk our nature when degraded by sinful indulgence : How ennobled by every thing which tends to form it anew after its divine original : O Lord we come to thee for the grace by which this regeneration is to be effected : with thee is the residue of the spirit which thou hast promised to bestow upon all who truly ask his influence ;—for if our earthly parents know to give good gifts unto their children much more shall our Father in heaven give the holy spirit unto them that ask him. O what reason have we to deplore the ungrateful entertainment which we have so long given to this divine guest. The light, which through

divine truth he hath shed into the heart we have disregarded. We knew the solemn admonition, if any man defile the temple of God, him will God destroy, yet what vain and hurtful passions have we indulged, which have too often led into actual sin. How unlike has the whole tenor of our life been to that which befits strangers and pilgrims upon earth, and the candidates for a glorious immortality ! Created for thy glory we have yet dishonoured thy name, and disregarded thine authority. Bought with a price, even with the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, we have not glorified God in our bodies and spirits which are thine. O that we felt our guilt, that we could deeply mourn for our unfaithfulness. Till our eyes are open to the true measure and enormity of it, till we feel that we are indeed poor and miserable, and wretched and blind and naked, exposed to thy wrath and on the brink of eternal ruin, we shall not come unto Christ, that we may have life. O Lord, let not the day of judgment overtake us unprepared ; but stir us up to make our peace with thee before we go hence and are no more. Death is every day sweeping from around us multitudes to thy judgment seat to receive a sentence which fixes their doom for ever, and yet the living lay it not to heart ; and we also indulge a feeling of security, as if death were far distant and judgment scarce a reality ! Oh what children of weaknes, folly and sin, must we appear in thy pure eyes, Thou searcher of hearts, from whom no secret is hid, have compassion upon us, we beseech thee, and rescue us from sin and danger. Enlighten our understandings : give us grace to receive the truth in the love of it : May thy truth

make us free—free from every erroneous judgment, and every impure affection. Implant and mature within us all the graces of the Christian character. From a purified heart may there spring forth all the fruits of a holy life. Enable us to add to our faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, patience, brotherly kindness and charity. May we set constantly before us the bright example of the Saviour's perfections, that contemplating, admiring and imitating them, we may be transformed into the same image. Give us grace and ability to perform all the duties of social and relative life, and to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. May we spend every day and employ every talent in glorifying thy name. May we never weary in thy service. Shall the men of the world toil so unweariedly in the pursuit of perishable good, and shall we weary in the pursuit of the unfading joys of immortality? Shall they walk in a vain show and disquiet themselves in vain for that which satisfieth not, and shall we not strain onward in faith and hope for an incorruptible crown? Gracious and most merciful Lord, our God, lend us such assistances as shall remove all sloth and indifference in regard to matters of so much moment. Saviour of men, light is from thee to preserve the recompense of reward ever in our eye; strength is from thee to enable us to reach it; all grace and mercy is in thee to bestow upon us that which through no merit of our own, we are entitled to claim. Lord, quicken us in all spiritual affections and exercises, until the habits and dispositions of a new life become so strong, as to enable us to overcome in the hour of temptation, to advance unwear-

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iedly in the Christian course, unseduced by the pleasures of a sinful world, unintimidated by the scorn and opposition of ungodly men. Enjoying thy favor and the fellowship of the Spirit, amidst all the events of life whether joyous or adverse, when the hour of our departure shall come, may we be conducted in peace and safety through the valley of the shadow of death, and dwell in the house of the Lord for ever. * * * * *

VII.

Almighty Lord, on whom we depend for life and breath and all things, and for that grace by which we may be enabled to worship thee aright, be pleased in thine infinite mercy now to incline our hearts to thy fear and worship. Enlighten our understanding, quicken our desires after spiritual good, and endue us with a living faith, that we may now enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say his flesh; and having an high priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart, in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Infinitely great and glorious Lord God Almighty, who wast, who art, and who art to come, reveal thyself to us in the glory of thy attributes, that we may render unto thee the homage that is due unto thy name. No space can bound thy nature—the whole universe is full of thee. No duration can

limit thine existence—from everlasting to everlasting thou art God. In the mighty roll of ages thou continuest the same all perfect and immutable being, without the least variableness or shadow of turning. Nothing can resist thy power, or elude thy scrutiny. Thy spotless holiness cannot endure iniquity ; thy inflexible justice will not suffer sin to go unpunished. But eternal praise to thy name, thine immeasurable goodness has provided a propitiation for sin and an antidote for its evils, and in thy faithfulness and truth thou art fulfilling all the promises of that covenant of peace, entered into before the foundations of the world.

Encouraged though we be on the ground of this covenant of peace to worship towards thy holy place and to approach thy mercy seat where thou delightest to dwell, we yet feel our great unworthiness of so exalted a privilege, our entire insufficiency to perform so sacred a duty. How feeble and indistinct are our loftiest conceptions of thy nature. Fallen and degraded creatures we are now unfit for that communion with thee our creator and Lord, which in his original condition of innocence man enjoyed. In regard to us, darkness is now thy pavilion round about thee, and thick clouds of the sky ; and now we are unable to order our speech aright before thee by reason of darkness. O Lord most holy, O God most merciful, compassionate our miserable condition ; cast us not away from thy presence ; nor reject the voice of our supplications. Lead us to desire those things that are well pleasing in thy sight, and inspire the prayer which thy tender mercy will regard. Receiving such aid, all sinful and unworthy though we be, we

may come before thee with humble confidence ; for our hope is not in our own righteousness but in thy great mercy : we approach thee as sinners imploring pardon, not as faithful servants claiming a reward : we confess that we are worthy of death ; but we plead that Christ gave his life a ransom for us. By the Saviour's disrobing himself of his supreme celestial glory, by his humiliation in the likeness of sinful flesh, we beseech thee to have mercy on us guilty and offending children. By all the privations which he endured while sojourning in our world, by his agony in the garden and upon the cross, by his final victory over death and the grave, we beseech thee to pity us miserable sinners. In all the trials of this state of warfare; be at our right hand that we may not be greatly moved. In sorrow be our consolation ; in danger our protection ; in temptation our defence ; be our strength in the duties of life, and in death our exceeding great reward.

With our supplications we would offer thanksgiving, because of all thy goodness which has passed before us. Thou hast been our merciful protector all our life long unto the present day. Thy kind paternal hand has safely conducted us through the perilous stages of infancy and youth. Thou hast borne with the heedlessness and sin of our more mature years, and art still continuing our stay in this state where pardon may be found. Ever blessed be thy name that we are permitted on this day of holy rest to enter thy courts for the purpose of worship and instruction. Father of lights, reveal thyself to the humble and contrite spirit, and cause us to rejoice in thy house of pray-

er. Banish the thought of folly and sin. Deliver us from the error and distraction of mankind. Discover to our faith the realities of that eternal world into which we must all ere long pass, and so quicken us by the religious exercises of this day that we may advance to a nearer resemblance of thy perfect character, and to a meetness for the inheritance of the saints in light.

As partakers of the same faith, the same hope, the same baptism, with all who in every place call upon the name of Jesus, our common Saviour, we join our intercessions with those of the church universal, and beseech thee to make thy way known upon the earth, thy saving health among all nations. Give success this day to a preached gospel. Meet with the assemblies of thy people. Prepare the ambassadors of Christ for the faithful discharge of their embassy. With power & success may they beseech men in Christ's stead to be reconciled unto God. By demonstration of the truth may they convince the gainsayer; by representations of thy holiness and justice may they awaken the sinful to a sense of their danger; by declarations of thy mercy and love, may they encourage the penitent and contrite, and inspire the hopes and administer the consolations of religion to all who are in Christ Jesus. And may all thy people become workers together with thee in the establishment of that blessed kingdom, which consists in righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.

Hear, O most merciful Father, these our humble and imperfect supplications. Deny what we have sought amiss in our ignorance. What we have failed to ask bestow in thine abundant mercy. And

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let our prayers and praises find acceptance in thy sight, through him whom thou hearest always, to whom with the Father and the holy Spirit be glory everlasting, Amen.

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Almighty Lord our God, with profound humility would we bow before thy mercy-seat, lifting up our heart and voice unto thee in prayer and adoration. Created by thy power and bountifully sustained by thy providence all our life long unto the present day, it becomes us with lively gratitude to present our offerings of thanksgiving and praise. Callous indeed were our hearts, and dead to a happy sentiment, could we receive the blessings of health, food, raiment, and the numberless benefits of domestic and social life, without gratitude to our heavenly Father, from whom cometh down every good and perfect gift, who is the health of our countenance and our God. But on this sacred day, we are reminded of our debt of obligation for greater than temporal mercies, even for those blessings that accompany salvation, spiritual and eternal. We adore thee, most gracious Lord and God, for the revelation of thy mercy in our Lord Jesus Christ. In him thou hast proclaimed thyself to the sinful race of man, to be the Lord, the Lord God merciful and gracious, long-suffering and slow to anger, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin. This thy purpose of mercy has been revealed to us in a manner calculated to convince every intelli-

gent being that thou art indeed the just God, and yet the Saviour of them that believe. For at once to declare thy hatred of sin and thy love to the sinner thou didst not spare thine only begotten son, but didst deliver him up freely to the death for us all ; and with a grace as free and a love as infinite, did He resign the glory which he had with the Father before the world was, and became of no reputation, and was found in fashion as a man and humbled himself to death, even the death of the cross, that he might enter with his own blood into the holiest of all, there to make intercession for us. We adore thy great and glorious name for such a merciful interposition in behalf of a race whose mean order and aggravated sinfulness precluded every claim on thy goodness. Thy justice did not spare the angels that sinned ; yet hath justice yielded to mercy in the redemption of mankind. Thou laidest our help on one mighty to save and strong to deliver ; who though the Creator of all worlds and the object of angelic adoration, took upon him the seed of Abraham, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. He hath magnified thy law and vindicated its claims ; he hath demonstrated before men and angels that thou canst be just and yet the justifier of them that believe in Jesus ; he hath proclaimed to man the righteousness which is by faith ; and with an amazing freeness of mercy and love he maketh his own complete in himself, not having their own righteousness which is of the law, but the righteousness which is by the faith of Christ unto all, and upon all them that believe. Without controversy great

is this mystery of godliness ; God manifest in the flesh, justified in the spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. For it hath pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell ; and by him to reconcile all things unto himself, whether they be things on earth, or things in heaven. O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God, how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out.

But ah, most holy and righteous Lord our God, the history of our fallen race has evinced the dreadful possibility of our neglecting the great salvation. The evil heart of unbelief hath led multitudes even to deny the Lord that bought them, and to bring upon themselves swift destruction. Incline us to take heed lest there be in us also an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God. With shame and sorrow do we confess that the revelation of thy mercy in Christ hath never pressed us so deeply, as from the evidence that accompanied it, and the momentous objects it discloses, it ought to have done. It declares the guilt and the punishment of sin, but what a dim and transient impression has the terrible description made on our hearts ; the discovery of our moral disease, of our great and imminent danger, has awakened no proportionate anxiety. The announcement of thy mercy —with what a lifeless gratitude have we listened to it ! The love of Christ, in contemplating which angels adore and burn, hath scarcely melted our frozen hearts ! Spirit of wisdom and purity remove this veil of unbelief from the heart. Take the stony heart out of our flesh and give us hearts of flesh. Give

to divine truth a quickening energy, that it may enlighten, sanctify and save us. Teach us to fear thy displeasure ; to love thy favor as life ; to crave thy pardoning mercy as those who know the value of reconciliation with God ; to supplicate thy sanctifying grace as those who know that the will of God is even our sanctification. May our hope of eternal life be a purifying hope. May we long for the felicity of heaven because we love its perfection, and the vision of the glory of God that confers it.

Heavenly Father, we adore and bless thy great and glorious name for those ordinances which thou hast instituted in thy church for communicating the blessings that pertain to life and godliness. Thou condescendest to dwell with us and to be our God ; we sit in heavenly places in Christ Jesus. Whencever we prostrate ourselves before thy mercy-seat commune with us as thou didst with thy people of old from between the cherubim ; refresh our souls with the blessings promised to thine heritage ; bestow upon us those riches for the bestowment of which Christ became poor ; give us repentance and the remission of sins through his blood ; remove the just alarms of guilt and grant us peace and joy in believing ; and so renew us in the spirit of our mind that henceforth we may be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. May supreme love to thee be our prevailing affection, and let its purifying flame consume the last embers of sin and pollution. May it continue to glow and brighten, until we join the spirits of the just made perfect and receive a place before the throne of God and of the Lamb.

That the purchased redemption may thus be ren-

dered complete in us and in all thy people, we humbly beseech thee to send down the rich influences of thy grace upon all who shall this day worship in thy holy temple. With longing eyes have they turned towards Zion the city of our solemnities for there God doth command his blessing, even life for evermore. Comfort all her waste places ; make her wilderness like Eden, and her deserts like the garden of the Lord ; let joy and gladness be found therein, thanksgiving and the voice of melody. Let the utterance come from many a heart, as the reason of its song—"for the Lord hath comforted his people, and will have mercy upon his afflicted." Give to thy suppliant worshippers fervency of desire, humble faith in thy promises, submission to thy will, and the affectionate filial confidence enjoyed by those who through the spirit cry Abba Father. Incline thy people to listen with devout and reverent attention to the preaching of the word. Being mixed with faith may it profit them according to their varied wants and circumstances. Relieve the doubting and perplexed ; establish the wavering and fortify the weak ; bind up the broken in heart and heal the wounded in spirit; and if any of thy children have in their intercourse with the world dishonored the holy name whereby they are called, bring them in humiliation and penitence to the Saviour's cross, and restore them to the joy of the Lord which is their strength. Prepare such as are about to pass through important changes of thy providential appointment, for passing through them with safety, and make all things work together for their good. Invigorate the faith, and refresh and perfect the nature of such

as are drawing near the confines of the eternal world. Let the grace of the redeemer be richly magnified in them ere mortality be swallowed up of life.

Heavenly Father, we would not omit our special intercession for the multitudes who enter thy house, professing to honor thee with their lips while their hearts are far from thee ; who come up to the sanctuary of their God in very vanity and thoughtlessness, and mock thee, the searcher of hearts, with the incense of hypocrisy, the sacrifice of fools. O God, mingle not their blood with their sacrifices, but regard them in thy long suffering patience and lead them to repentance. Let thy voice awaken the sleeper, and lead him to a serious concern for the things that belong to his peace. Cause the terrors of the law to arouse the fears of the sinful, and the aggravations of their iniquity to afflict their spirits. Let the remembrance of goodness abused, and mercy rejected, and love dishonoured, embitter their compunction. Let the Cross of Christ display before them at once thy holiness and thy love and make sin appear exceeding sinful ; and may the faith and hope with which it inspires those who are truly penitent, crucify them to the world, and the world unto them. O Lord, we feel how utterly insufficient mere human agency is to regenerate even one sinner, much more to establish a *kingdom* of righteousness ; and we rejoice that this is not made dependant on human might or power, but on thine own spirit. Shed abroad his blessed influence this day on the church, as in ages departed it hath been shed, and bring the wanderers from the fold back to the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls. Make

a people willing in the day of thy power. Let the trophies of thy grace be numerous as the dew-drops of the morning, that he who died for men may see of the travail of his soul, and the whole universe resound with the glory of his name. * * * *

IX.

With profound reverence, with lowly prostration of soul, would we now call upon thee, O thou who art the creator and the preserver of men. Thou art in this and every place in all the fulness and perfections of thine attributes, though our unbelieving hearts but dimly apprehend the glory of thy majesty. The heaven of heavens cannot contain thee : thou fillest immensity with thy presence ; and all things are spread out naked and bare before thy searching eye. Seraphim and cherubim, angels and archangels, the countless myriads of pure and happy spirits who stand before thy throne in the upper sanctuary, abide in the light of thy countenance ; and every worshipper in the lower sanctuary is not less an object of thy regard and scrutiny. O God, thou hast been our witness since first we breathed the breath of life. The sins and follies of our youth are written in the book of thy remembrance. Our earliest forgetfulness of Thee, the first acts of our disobedience against thy sovereign and righteous authority, though they have faded away from our memory, stand on thy record faithful and imperishable. With shame and sorrow we confess that our sinfulness is marked with peculiar

aggravations of guilt. For in youth we enjoyed the benefit of scriptural instruction and pious example ; many prayers were offered up in our behalf by those beloved friends who were deeply interested in our spiritual welfare ; on many a sabbath the doctrines of salvation have been preached to us, and the threatenings of the law and the encouragements of the gospel pressed upon our fears and hopes ; thy Spirit too hath often striven with us, quickening the power of conscience and arming truth with the force of conviction ; thou hast spoken to us in the events of providence—in the seasons of affliction and peril, and thy voice has been powerful and persuasive. By it we have been restrained from many evil courses which else might have proved our ruin ; by it we have been conducted to some acquisitions of religious knowledge, and to some observance of religious ordinances, which, though imperfect in degree and stained with much sin, has nevertheless withheld us from that excess of riot into which many have run and perished. But, O most holy and righteous Lord, though thy long sparing mercy has thus been extended towards us, and though thy abundant grace hath thus followed us all the days of our life, yet our souls are still too much estranged from thee. Alas have we not reason to fear that we have too often, too long received the grace of God in vain. Our affections are inordinately set on temporal things ; our perverted and misgoverned desires chain us down to earth ; even when we seek to rise above the things that are seen, and to quicken the aspirations of our immortal nature, and to enjoy fellowship with the father of our spirits, we struggle with an inward corruption

that deprives us of the power ; spiritual darkness obscures the understanding, spiritual insensibility benumbs the heart ; and often after a laborious effort to draw near to thee, we retire with a painful apprehension that thou hast not heard our prayer, and that because of prevailing iniquity we have come away empty and unblessed. O Lord the great and dreadful God, how long shall it thus be ? how long shall presumptuous sins have the dominion over us ? We are assured that thou delightest in mercy, that thy will is even our sanctification ; and if we are yet in the bonds of iniquity it is not because thou art unwilling to deliver. Upon ourselves therefore must rest the entire guilt of the iniquity that we have wrought and the mournful effects of which compel us so often to approach Thee, with confessions of our most aggravated sinfulness, and under a painful sense of our spiritual weakness and insensibility.

Have compassion on us, O Lord our God ; have pity on us thy suppliant children. We have contracted a guilt which we cannot cancel ; we have incurred a penalty which, if exacted, would prove our everlasting ruin ; we labor under a spiritual impotency, which even were the past annihilated, would render us unable to work out our own salvation. We feel that we are lost indeed, unless thine omnipotent mercy stretch forth its hand to save us ; unless thine unmerited grace work in us a spiritual regeneration which by our own unaided efforts we cannot accomplish. Jehovah, the covenant-keeping God, who art plenteous in mercy towards all them that call upon Thee, look upon us, now prostrate in self-abasement and contrition ; grant us the re-

mission of our sins through the peace-speaking blood of the redeemer; revive us by thine all-quickening spirit from the death of sin to the life of righteousness; uphold our goings in the ways of thy commandments that all inconstancy of purpose and of obedience may be removed; that the career of spiritual improvement and filial subjection on which we would now enter, may without one darkening cloud shine brighter and brighter unto the perfect day. Let our knowledge and faith be ever gaining fresh accessions; let our love and admiration of the perfect excellence of our divine master incite us with unsailing ardor to copy his example; may we never rest until we are transformed into his image, and prepared for that everlasting kingdom of righteousness and peace and joy over which he reigns; and into which he is gathering his redeemed from every kindred and people and tongue.

Thus breathing before Thee, our God in Christ, these heartfelt aspirations, that we may be made partakers of a divine nature through the knowledge of him who hath called us to glory and virtue, we earnestly entreat thee to give a divine efficiency to the means ordained for that end, and for the observance of which this holy day is specially consecrated. Bless thine own sabbaths, O God, for the rest and refreshment of the weary pilgrims of Zion sojourning amidst this sinful world. Dispose them to embrace with fervent and devout hearts the respite which this sacred day brings from temporal cares, and to observe the ordinances which it offers for spiritual improvement and preparation for the Canaan above. May the exercises of the closet and family prepare us for the exercises of the sanctuary.

May the oblations of prayer and praise this day presented by the church on earth, rise with the sweet odour from the censer of our great high priest in the heavenly temple and be accepted before the throne of God. And as in this world where error so often misleads, and temptation endangers, we need the word of thy truth to enlighten, direct, and strengthen us, we humbly implore thy blessing upon it as it may be read and preached. May it prove the savour of life unto life to the multitudes that shall hear it. It is the office of thy holy Spirit, through whose inspiration it is given, to render it effectual unto salvation. Incline thy servants who declare it to rely on his promised and powerful aid. Incline those that hear to look up to thee for his divine illumination ; and may his presence in the church be manifested in turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just—that there may be a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, to offer up spiritual sacrifices unto thee, acceptable through Jesus Christ. * * *

X.

Lord have mercy upon us ; Christ have mercy upon us ; Holy spirit have mercy upon us. Ever blessed and adorable Trinity prepare our hearts for calling upon thy name, for confiding in thy benignity, for relying on thy precious promises, and for yielding obedience to that gracious command, “*in all things* by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving make your requests known unto God.”

Eternal Lord our God, though thus invited in thine infinite condescension and goodness to approach thy throne of grace as suppliants, tenderly regarded by thee, we acknowledge that thy goodness appears more benignant, and our own vileness more vile, by our disinclination and unfitness for this holy duty. Our wants are numerous, but how feeble and sickly are our spiritual desires ; how dimly we apprehend the import of our petitions, and ah ! how little do we feel them. Because of this we too often rise from our knees painfully conscious that thou hast not favored our prayer, coming forth out of feigned lips and from an unfeeling heart. What can we do, thou searcher of hearts, for the removal of this spiritual insensibility ? We come to thee asking thy counsel and aid. Thou didst create us at first ; thou art able to create us anew. From thee we have derived natural life ; spiritual and eternal life also proceed from Thee alone. As we are sustained from sinking into our original nothingness by the constant energy of thine almighty power, we cannot be prevented from sinking into the arms of spiritual death but by the constant sustaining power of thine omnipotent grace. O thou fountain of all being, perfection and blessedness, we are nothing without thee ; we can attain to nothing good without thee : we have made ourselves sinful, but we cannot make ourselves righteous : we have wrought our own ruin but we cannot retrieve it : we have of ourselves incurred thy condemnation but we cannot purchase our peace. Yet would we now fervently adore the riches of thy mercy which hath not left us without the hope of salvation. Thou hast ordained thy son Jesus Christ,

to be our Lord and Saviour. We thank thee that by his perfect obedience unto death he hath vindicated the spotless justice of thy government and through his endurance of what the law demanded of the guilty, thou canst now be just, and yet the justifier of them that believe in Him : we rejoice that the holiness of thy character and dominion remains untarnished even while thou raisest to the enjoyment of thy favor and eternal life, those who are by nature the children of wrath, and obnoxious to all the miseries of the second death. Under the mediatorship of Jesus mercy and truth have met together, righteousness and peace have embraced each other : and with the perfect harmony of all thine attributes, thou art now reconciling a guilty world unto thyself, not imputing to them that believe their trespasses. Most holy and righteous Father, our Lord and God, thy judgments are a great deep ; thy mercy reacheth above the clouds. We humbly acquiesce in the mysteries of redemption ; with penitent and believing hearts we confide in thy mercy ; we flee for shelter to Christ our ark and refuge—stretch forth thine hand and take us in : we place our feet on this rock of our salvation—may nothing remove us from so sure and safe a resting place, but may we abide on it for ever. Return unto thy rest, O my soul, for the Lord hath dealt bountifully with thee. Whom have we in heaven but thee ; and there is none upon all the earth that we desire beside thee : conduct us by thy counsel while we live and afterwards bring us to glory. * * * * *

XI.

Father of mercies, how inestimable is the privilege granted to us the sinful children of the dust, of presenting our supplications before thee at all times, through Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. How gracious the assurance that thine ear is ever open to the cry of the needy, thine hand ever extended to afford succor to the destitute and miserable who implore thine aid. Mean though we be as compared with the angelic orders who worship before thy throne, we are not overlooked. Insignificant among the innumerable beings who depend on thy bounty, we are not forgotten ; unworthy though we be of the least of thy favors because of our aggravated sinfulness, we are not rejected. But through the mediation of him who died on the cross a ransom for many, thou regardest always the prayers of the penitent ; thou hearest the groaning of the prisoner and freest them that are doomed to die.

O most merciful Lord God Almighty, we reverently present ourselves before thy mercy seat that we may obtain of thy great liberality the blessings purchased through a Saviour's mediation. With an humble faith in thy promises and invitations we beseech thee to awaken within us right desires, and graciously fulfil the desires thou awakenest. Prepare us by a just examination of our heart and life for the grace of a true repentance. Discover to us the impress of thy seal on the gospel

page, that we believing the record thou hast given of thy son may obtain the remission of our sins through his blood: and help us so to apprehend the glorious truths of the gospel, and so to observe its ordinances, that we may finally obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

We confess before thee, O thou searcher of hearts, that though in a degree we discern the importance of the petitions we offer, our discernment is but dim and our desires feeble. The cares and the pleasures of this world equally obscure our apprehension of spiritual things. The occupations of time too frequently diminish our solicitude about eternity; and even the enjoyments which thy kind providence scatters along the course of our pilgrimage are too often so misused by us as to cause us to forget its end. Alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in us because of the blindness of our hearts, we turn away from thee the centre of immortal rest, and repair to those cisterns of created good where we find nought but disappointment, or are betrayed into ruinous pursuits by unreal and delusive phantoms of felicity. O most holy God, regard thy suppliant children with compassion. Prone to error, do thou guide us. Encompassed with manifold perils, do thou preserve us. Strongly bent from our depraved affections to sin against thee, do thou remove that depravity, and work in us both to will and to do according to thy good pleasure. And so sustain us through all the scenes of this mortal warfare, that we may walk as the heirs of glory, and honour, and immortality.

And as we move onwards to the eternal world, may the well founded anticipation of the glory to

be revealed, animate us in the path of self-denial and obedience. While our experience convinces us, that godliness has the promise of the life that now is, may our faith lead us to the realizing assurance, that it hath also the promise of the life that is to come. And cherishing the sure and certain hope of future blessedness, may we habitually aspire after that regeneration of nature which will prepare us for its possession. The world above into which we hope to be admitted is the habitation of the pure in heart—O thou sanctifying Spirit, form us to a suitable purity. There are the regions where God is manifested in visible glory—bestow on us the character of the redeemed that we may be prepared to behold that glory. There do we mingle with the general assembly of the church of the first born, the spirits of the just made perfect—may we now be prepared for their fellowship by being made partakers of a divine nature.

Inclined and supported by thy grace may we diligently endeavour to cultivate those excellencies with which sanctified and redeemed natures are adorned. Help us to maintain a holy mastery over all that is mean or sensual in our nature or condition. Let us be enlightened with all wisdom and spiritual understanding. May we be clothed w'th humility, filled with that charity which is the bond of perfectness, arrayed in the fine linen clean and white which is the righteousness of the saints, and unmoved by the opposition or ingratitude of men, may we be followers of him who went about continually doing good. Thus may our days on earth be devoted to our own spiritual improvement and the advancement of pure and undefiled religion among

mankind—and, through divine grace acting the part of wise and faithful stewards, may we obtain the approbation of our judge, when the son of man cometh in his glory. * * * * *

XII.

Most adorable Lord God Almighty, we feel and acknowledge that without the assistance of thy grace we are unable to worship Thee with acceptance. We are ignorant and unholy; by nature strongly inclined to that which is evil, and averse to that which is good; regard us with compassion. It is our humble desire and purpose to consecrate this day to thy service in the public and private ordinances of thy worship. Graciously assist our feeble and imperfect endeavors. May we experience the fulfilment of thy promise, that thou art near unto all them that call upon Thee. Commune with us from the mercy seat, from between the cherubim, of all things of which thou hast given commandment unto the house of God.

Permitted of thine infinite condescension to draw near to the throne of grace, what shall we say to Thee, O thou preserver of men? Thou hast prolonged our days when our neighbors and friends were dropping into eternity on the right hand and on the left. Multitudes of our fellow mortals are every hour separated from earthly connections and enjoyments, and removed into an unchangeable eternity, where there is no space for repentance, and where the voice of entreating mercy never falls on

the guilty ear ; and had not thy long-suffering patience borne with us, we also had been cut down as cumberers of the ground, and condemned to drink the cup of thy displeasure. When we sit in solemn review and examination on the manner in which our past days have been spent, our own hearts condemn us and Thou art greater than our hearts and knowest all things. We have often disregarded the warnings of thy providence, and abused its bounties ; we have often resisted the remonstrances of conscience, and done much to extinguish its light ; we have often quenched the influence of thy Holy Spirit, and treated him with despite ; though endued with reason, we have yet lived unreasonably ; and though the light of divine truth shone around us, we have too long made the infatuated and dangerous choice of walking in darkness ; threatened with thy displeasure on account of disobedience, we have yet continued to transgress without fear thy holy commandments ; allured to godliness by the promise of an everlasting reward, we have too long sought death in the error of our ways. O thou, who art righteous in the judgments that thou executest, we acknowledge that it is of thy mercy that we are not consumed, and because thy compassions fail not. We are the monuments of thy mercy when we might have been the monuments of thy justice.—Send, we beseech thee, thy spirit into our hearts to convince us of sin ; to work in us a true repentance ; to lead us to forsake every evil way, and cleave to that which is good. Lead us to form such conceptions of the guilt and danger of iniquity as shall cause us to regard it with the utmost concern and aversion. We feel

that our apprehensions of the guilt and danger of sin come far short of its demerit and consequences. We fear that we have no adequate sense of our guilt in offending thee, the holiest and best of beings, our benefactor, redeemer and God. Alas, how often have we been disposed to extenuate our sinfulness in thy sight, as if the Lord did not see and the God of Jacob did not regard it. Make us to understand and feel the true nature of that which excites thine abhorrence and displeasure ; of that which introduced disorder into thy fair creation, and entailed such disastrous consequences upon the race of man. Teach us to see its evils in the groans of creation, in the cruelties and miseries of mankind, in thine everlasting condemnation that abides upon the unreclaimed sinner. O discover to us its hatefulness and enormity in the very means thou hast adopted to counteract and remove its evils. In the humiliation, sufferings, and death of our redeemer, endured to reconcile the sinner unto Thee, may we behold the true nature of sin. From the cross of Christ may we learn humility and be inspired with a deep and tender compunction. Thou madest him to be sin for us who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him. Bestow on us redemption through his blood, even the remission of our sins. May he be made unto us of God, wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and redemption. O God, we humbly beseech thee, grant us deliverance from the *power* as well as from the *guilt* of sin. Create us anew in Christ Jesus. Inspire us with pure tastes and holy affections; remove selfishness ; implant benevolence ; extinguish the love of the world ; render our careful-

ness of eternity predominant ; teach us to live not unto ourselves, but in all things to thy glory ;— and in the path of enlightened self-denial, and holy devotedness to thy service, may we ever enjoy thy sustaining and comforting grace, until, through sovereign mercy, we are presented holy and unblameable before God, even the Father.

On this holy day, the sacred memorial of our redeemer's resurrection and of the acceptance of his expiatory work, we would not omit our public united thanksgiving for that economy of grace, of which he is the distributor as well as the purchaser. For it hath pleased thee, O Father, that in him should all fulness dwell; and, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto thyself, whether they be things on earth, or things in heaven. Out of his inexhaustible fulness, may we this day receive grace unto grace. Give thy people every where to enjoy freedom of access to the mercy-seat. Inspire them with an unwavering confidence in the efficacy of the mediator's intercession; and resting on it with fervent gratitude, may they abound in peace, be strengthened for duty and for trial, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

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XIII.

Almighty and eternal God, our heavenly Father, we draw near unto the throne of thy grace through that new and living way which Christ hath opened up through the veil, that is to say his flesh. Ador-

ed be thy name for the revelation of thy mercy through him, the one mediator between God and man, in whom thou art reconciling a guilty world unto thyself, not imputing unto them that believe their trespasses. Amazing discovery of the mercy and love of our Creator and God ! Greater love hath no man than this, that a man should lay down his life for a friend, but God hath commended his love towards us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. May it be our sacred employment on this holy day, the memorial of the redeemer's resurrection, to contemplate with reverence and humility the lustre which this wonderful transaction sheds upon thy attributes and on the condition of our sinful and miserable race. Thine infinite benignity, Almighty Lord, had been already displayed in the creation, not only of angels but of men. Myriads of pure and happy spirits were enjoying an ineffable bliss around the throne of thy glory, the adoring recipients of thy boundless goodness. But to the fallen race of man thou hast made thyself known as the Lord God, merciful and gracious—delivering up thine only begotten son as a ransom for the world. When there was no eye to pity and no hand to help us, thine eye pitied, and His hand wrought out deliverance for us. The word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory—the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth. We adore and bless thee, for his amazing condescension in being found in fashion as a man, in humbling himself to death, even the death of the cross, for our sakes. We thank thee for the heavenly truths he hath revealed, both in his own teaching and through his

apostles, to the world. We thank thee for the perfect example of moral goodness that he hath set before us. We thank thee for the fellowship of his church, and its sacred institutions. We thank thee for his continual superintendence of all its interests, for his intercession at the right hand of the throne of God in our behalf, for the free distribution of the gifts and graces of his spirit for the conversion of sinners, for the perfecting of the saints, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the son of God, unto the perfection and felicity of our being. Already we may contemplate with grateful admiration the glorious trophies with which redeeming grace is crowned. The spirits of the just made perfect, are already ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands. The company of the worshippers on earth, who have the name which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it, is larger than our unbelieving fears have sometimes imagined. Our faith looks forward to a time not remote, when from the rising of the sun until the going down of the same, the Lord's name will be praised by the population of a regenerated world. Our faith looks still onward to the period, when time shall be no more, when the number of the elect shall be gathered in, so many as the stars of the sky in multitude, and as the sand which is by the sea shore innumerable, when the new Jerusaleim, coming down from heaven, shall be prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. Our souls rejoicing in God our Saviour, would anticipate the glory of that second advent of the triumphant redeemer, when the redeemed shall return to Zion

with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads, when they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away ; when the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God.

While our hearts thus throb with exulting hope and joy—we nevertheless feel the risings of solicitude and fear. *Our* rest is not gained ; *our* victory is not won. We are in an enemy's country, amidst scenes of danger and battle. We have indeed girded on our harness ; but we would not boast, as they who have finished their course and kept the faith. Omniscient witness of our heart and life, thou knowest the strength of our enemies, and our weakness; the perils of our condition, and our unpreparedness to encounter them ; the trials through which we have to pass and our inability to endure them ; thou knowest the instability of our faith, the deficiency of our repentance, our very limited knowledge of sacred things, the indifference of our hearts to prayer, and the smallness and inconstancy of our love to thee :—above all, thou seeest how little we ourselves are affected by these evils, and how greatly our danger is aggravated by our ignorance and insensibility. Heavenly Father, have compassion upon us ; dissipate our ignorance by the word of truth ; remove our weakness by the power of God ; clothe us in the armour of righteousness on the right hand and on the left. Suffer us not to be tempted above that we are able to bear, but with the temptation make a way for our escape that we may be able to bear it. Endue us more richly with that

faith which overcometh the world, with that holy love to our God and redeemer which consumes in the soul the last remains of its impurity ; which constitutes an endearing and perpetual bond between the God of love and its possessor ;—“For they that dwell in love dwell in God and God in them.”

O Lord, thou art our God ; we will exalt thee, we will praise thy name : for thou hast done wonderful things ; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Thou art greatly to be praised in the mountain of thy holiness—in the city of the great king—God is known in her palaces for a refuge. For the Lord hath chosen Zion ; he hath desired it for his habitation. We will ever esteem it as a singular token of thy mercy and love that we have been so long permitted to enjoy the fellowship of thy church, and communion with its divine Head in the ordinances of his appointment. We prize it above all earthly distinctions that we have a name and a place within the heritage of God. Forbid that it should prove a nominal and useless distinction. Having a name to live, may we really enjoy life—that life which is by the faith of the Son of God who loved us and gave himself for us. Let this spiritual life find a constant sustenance and increasing growth, from the doctrines of thy word, and the fellowship of thy saints, and the breaking of bread and prayers. Bring us on successive sabbaths, to the place where prayer is wont to be made, and the wonderful works of God declared, in that childlike and believing temper, which thou ever regardest with complacency and deignest to bless. With enlarged desires and expectations may we compass thine altar, O Lord, and there obtain the

blessing even life for evermore. May we ever repair hither under the deep conviction that we are poor and miserable, and wretched and blind and naked ; yet believing that durable riches and robes of righteousness are with thee, and peace and joy to fill the renewed soul up to the measure of its highest capacity. And often may our experience confirm the universal testimony of the faithful, that they who wait upon the Lord renew their spiritual strength, that they mount up on wings as eagles, they run & do not weary, they walk and do not faint. As we journey onward to the regions of immortality, may we often be refreshed by the pools in the desert, and go from strength to strength, until every one of us appear before God in Zion. O Lord God of hosts, hear the prayer which we now present unto the throne of thy heavenly grace ;— give ear O God of Jacob to the voice of our supplications. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. We urge no plea for favorable audience but what is founded on his death and intercession. In this we have an humble and assured confidence, that asking in his name according to the will of God, our prayers shall return in tensold blessing into our own bosoms. Be it unto us, most merciful father, according to thy word and pleasure. We would lose our will in thine. Fulfil in us all the good pleasure of thy goodness and the werk of faith with power ; that the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in us, and we in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ. To the ever-blessed, and adorable Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, be ascribed glory, deminion, and praise, now and forever. Amen.

XIV.

Almighty and eternal God, supreme ruler of the visible and invisible worlds, we thy sinful and dependant creatures desire to acknowledge thy sovereign authority in all we say and do. We were created for thy glory and to this would we dedicate all our powers. No higher dignity hast thou conferred on man than that he should be thy priest and worshipper in this temple of nature; and we desire ever to be found in the contemplation of thy perfections and the celebration of thy praise. Incline, we beseech thee, our wandering and sinful hearts to this high employment, and let us sing praises to the Lord as long as we live, let us sing praises to our God while we have any being.

We would ascribe everlasting praise to Thee, O most merciful God and Father, that thou hast not shut thine ear for ever against our praises and our prayers, because of our miserable apostacy from thee, and our soul disobedience to thy supreme authority. In the midst of our great guilt and misery Thou whose name is goodness and love didst reveal a scheme of mercy and redemption, whereby thou mightest be just and yet the justifier of them who believe in Jesus. O thou divine Head of the church, we acknowledge with unfeigned gratitude the manifestation of thy love in every discovery of thyself and will which thou hast made to man in the various ages of the world. We thank thee for the numerous predictions of a great

deliverer. We thank thee that in the fulness of time thy Son was made flesh, assuming that nature for which he was to suffer and to die. And still more would we rejoice and bless thee, that he hath now spoiled principalities and powers, making a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in his cross;—and that he hath now ascended up on high, having led captivity captive, and purchased gifts for men, even for the rebellious. O grant, we humbly beseech thee, that each of us now present, and all with whom we are connected in church fellowship, may participate in every blessing of the Saviour's love. May we obtain true spiritual illumination and repentance in his name. May we obtain remission of sins through his blood and sanctification of our whole nature through his spirit. Lift O God, upon us the light of thy countenance, and give us peace—a peace that the changes and bereavements of time shall not destroy, which, sustaining us throughout this mortal life and the valley of death, shall be perpetuated in heaven for ever.

We earnestly pray thee, O Lord, to bless and preside over that portion of the visible church with which we are connected. Lead us into all truth of doctrine, all purity of discipline, and an affectionate unanimity in promoting thy cause in the world. Naming the name of Christ, and professing to be his disciples, may we depart from all iniquity. Give us grace, O Lord, so to live in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation that we may shine as the lights of the world. Let our whole temper and deportment, our superiority to all that is sinful and earthly, evince to all around that the spirit of our divine redeemer dwells within us, and

is carrying forward our preparation for a state of existence where sin, ignorance and imperfection, are known no more.

Grant, O Lord, that each of us feeling our obligation to redeeming love, may study to diffuse the knowledge of it in our families & among our friends, and neighborhood. May we each in our respective stations go forth to the help of the Lord against the mighty, and entreat men to be reconciled to God. And, O Lord, revive thy work ; in the midst of the years make known ; in wrath remember mercy. May we behold multitudes going and weeping ; enquiring the way to Zion with their faces thitherward. May we behold thy sabbaths and thy ordinances more regarded, and pure and undefiled religion shedding its blessed influence over all our habitations.

And O thou universal parent, cause thy way to be known upon the earth, thy saving health among all nations. May the Redeemer's dominion extend from sea to sea and from the river unto the ends of the earth. Make bare thy holy arm in the sight of all nations, and let all the ends of the earth see the salvation of our God. Incline each of us according to our opportunity to labour and pray for the hastening on of that period--when the deaf shall hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity and out of darkness ; when they that err in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine ; when the Lord that dwelleth on high shall be exalted ; when our Zion shall be filled with judgment and righteousness, and eternal peace. * * *

XV.

*GENERAL CONFESSION.

Most holy, and righteous, Lord our God, with self-abasement and contrition we confess our iniquities and acknowledge our sins unto thee, against whom we have so grievously offended. Conceived in sin and brought forth in iniquity, the thoughts of our hearts have been only evil from our youth up and that continually ; and had not thy grace restrained we had sunk still lower in the abysses of disobedience and rebellion. Nor can we review the peculiar advantages of our condition, without perceiving the peculiar aggravation of our offences. For although from our youth up we have been fully instructed in thy law—so holy, just and good—yet have we done that which was forbidden, and left undone that which was enjoined. We have transgressed not only through ignorance and infirmity, but we have sinned presumptuously against light, against the checks of conscience, and against the motions of thy holy spirit, so that we have no cloak for our sins :—and, oh vileness beyond our power to estimate ! we have despised the riches of thy goodness, forbearance, and long-suffering ; we have resisted many invitations and offers of grace in the gospel ; we have not endeavored, as we ought,

*Assembly's Directory for the Public Worship of God.

to receive Christ into our hearts by faith, or to walk worthy of him in our life. We acknowledge our transgression and our sin is ever before us. O Lord, most holy, O God, most righteous, against thee, thee only have we sinned, and done this evil in thy sight. We bewail our blindness of mind, which prevents us from seeing our aggravated sinfulness and danger ; we bewail our hardness of heart, on account of which we are not affected as we ought to be with our spiritual destitution and misery ; we bewail that carnal security in which we are so apt to repose as if thou hadst spoken peace ; we bewail our feeble and inconstant efforts to crucify the flesh with its affections and lusts, and the listlessness with which we have sought after righteousness and true holiness. With godly sorrow we confess that we have not walked humbly before Thee, nor kept our garments unspotted from the world, nor zealously devoted ourselves to the advancement of thy glory and the well-being of our fellow-men. Most gracious God, we are verily guilty in that we have treated with neglect thy manifold and great mercies, done despite unto the spirit of thy grace and counted the blood of the covenant wherewith we are redeemed as a common thing : we have purposed to be on the Lord's side, but our purposes have failed ; we have vowed unto the Lord but we have not performed : our most solemn covenants have been broken, and often and far have we departed from the right way. O Lord, holy and just, our own hearts condemn us, and thou art greater than our hearts and knowest all things. We judge ourselves unworthy of the smallest benefits, most worthy of the heaviest evils in-

flicted on rebellious sinners. In justice thou mightest take thy kingdom and gospel away from us, and leave us to reap the fruit of our own doings ; thou mightest justly plague us with all sorts of spiritual and temporal judgments in this life, and doom us in the life to come to that state of darkness and woe, where thy mercy is clean gone and thou wilt be favorable no more. But, O the long-suffering patience and forbearance of God ! We yet hear the voice of beseeching mercy, and in the name of our once suffering but now exalted Mediator, we are invited to draw near to the throne of grace that we may obtain mercy to pardon, and find grace to help us. O Lord God of hosts, hear our prayer ; give ear, O God of Jacob. Behold, O God our shield, and look upon the face of thine anointed. Remember us, O Lord, we beseech thee, with the favor that thou bearest unto thy people : O visit us with thy salvation, that we may see the good of thy chosen, that we may rejoice in the gladness of thy nation, that we may glory with thine inheritance.

XVI.

*GENERAL THANKSGIVING.

Most merciful and gracious Lord our God, we are indebted unto thee for all that we have enjoyed, for all we now possess, and for all we hope to ob-

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tain. From thee, the Father of lights, cometh down every good and perfect gift. We thank thee that thou hast called us into being, for the rank thou hast assigned us, for the capacities with which we are endued, and the immortality to which we are destined : we thank thee for whatever advantages of early education we have enjoyed, for the numerous sources of improvement and gratification that have been opened up to us, and for the holy scriptures which reveal to us more fully the glories of thy name, the end of our being, the way of salvation, and the duties of our condition : above all we thank thee for thine unspeakable gift, Christ Jesus, for the atonement made by him for the sins of a guilty world, for his prevailing intercession at the right hand of the Majesty on high, and the universal empire committed to him until the redemption of a lost world be complete : we thank thee for the establishment of divine ordinances among us, for the communion of saints, and for the promise of the holy spirit to abide with the church : we adore and bless thee for the multitude of the redeemed, who through much tribulation have entered into the heavenly Zion, and for those who now in the church beneath are through divine grace warring a good warfare, and for the generations unborn who shall obtain the gift of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. Author of life and happiness, we adore and bless thee : God of mercy and grace, we magnify thy name : and in humble anticipation we join in the song of celestial worshippers, worthy art thou, O Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Nor would

we fail gratefully to acknowledge thy rich bounty in bestowing on us the manifold benefits which render our condition in the present world so agreeable. We thank thee for the splendor of the starry heavens, and for the varied beauties with which our earth is adorned. We thank thee for a genial climate, for fruitful seasons, for the enjoyments of friendship and domestic society, for the peace and security derived from a well-ordered government. These benefits temporal and spiritual, are thy gifts, O Lord our heavenly father. Though we have been sinful and disobedient children, thou hast not restrained thy benignity of any kind ; but with unwearyed hand thou hast shed upon our path blessings that perish in the using and such as shall last for ever. Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty ; for all that is in the heaven and in the earth is thine : thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and thou art exalted as head above all. Both riches and honor come of thee, and thou reignest over all ; and in thy hand is power and might, and in thine hand it is to make great, and to give strength unto all. Now therefore our God we thank thee, and praise thy glorious name. We will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify him with thanksgiving. We will extol thee, our God, O king, we will bless thy name for ever and ever. Every day will we bless thee ; we will praise thy name for ever and ever.

XVII.

*LITANY.

Lord God, thou saviour of the world, be gracious unto us, and cause us to abide in thy favor for ever. Preserve us, gracious Lord and God, from coldness to thy merits and death, from all errors and misunderstanding, and from the loss of our glory in Thee. Save us from the influence of the spirit of this world, from undue self-complacency, and from the unhappy desire of becoming great. May we never engage in untimely projects, nor suffer by needless perplexity. But from the murdering spirit and devices of Satan, from the temptations of the wicked, and the depravity of our own hearts, we earnestly beseech thee to preserve us, gracious Lord and God.

By all the merits of thy life; by thy obedience, diligence, and faithfulness; by thy extreme poverty; by thy griefs and sorrows; by thy prayers and tears,—bless and comfort us, gracious Lord and God.

By thine agony in the garden; by thy crown of thorns and scourging; by thy cross and passion; by thy dying words; by thy atoning death,—deliver us from sin's curse, and sin's dominion.

By thy rest in the grave and resurrection from the

*Altered from that of the Moravian Church.

dead, may we be taught to regard death and the grave without dismay, assured that death shall not have power to hurt us, and that thou wilt redeem our dust from the dishonour of the grave.

By thy sitting at the right hand of God, by thy prevailing intercession, by thy holy sacraments, by thy divine presence, bless and comfort us, and establish us in thy faith and fear until the day of thy appearance to judge the world, and to receive thy sanctified ones into glory everlasting.

Who, with all the angelic throng, will ascribe honor and glory dominion and power unto him that sitteth on the throne and to the Lamb forevermore.

XVIII.

ADORATION OF OUR REDEEMER.

Blessed Jesus, we adore and worship Thee, as our Lord and Redeemer, as the Son of God, and also the Son of man. Thou hast dwelt in the bosom of the Father from eternity—begotten not made—the self-existent, coequal with the Father. By thee Jehovah the Creator made the worlds, and ever since thou calledst the earth from the unpeopled abyss, thy delights have been with the children of men. Thy divine presence and love overshadowed the innocent bowers of paradise, and Thou gavest to man, while as yet he had not offended thee, the tree of life that grew in the midst of the garden. After thou hadst surrounded it with the

flaming swords of cherubim, and driven our guilty representatives from the abode thou hadst prepared for them, thou didst not desert the work of thy hand nor leave the guilty offenders without hope under the doom of death they had incurred : but thou didst—O wondrous mercy !—interpose, offering thyself as our mediator and ransom, that our race should not be destroyed from the orders of the intelligent universe, but might become the objects in whose salvation the mercy of the Godhead should be illustriously displayed. In the administration of that covenant of peace, entered into with the Father since the foundation of the world, thou hast successively unfolded this plan of redeeming mercy, declaring the purpose of God to sinful man, instituting the sacrifices typical of thine own atoning death, guiding the faith of patriarchs and prophets, governing thy chosen seed of whom in thy descent as man thou wast to come; and in the fulness of time thou wert born of a woman, made under the law, that thou mightest redeem those who were under the law, and through thy blood and spirit confer on them the adoption of sons. Son of God, we adore Thee in thy humiliation as our surety and mediator ; Thou didst leave the throne of thy glory, become bone of our bone and flesh of our flesh ; in thine infancy thou didst endure the persecution that sought thy life ; thy youth was spent in the toil and obscurity of lowly estate ; when thou enteredst upon the work that was given Thee to do, poverty surrounded thy path—for the foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of man had not where to lay his head ; thine own favored nation rejected Thee as their Messiah,

and cast out thy name as evil ; and while thou didst manifest all the signs of a prophet sent of God, and a power thine own greater than prophet ever manifested, exerted in the most beneficent manner in behalf of the poor and afflicted—the blinded descendants of faithful Abraham sought to compass thy destruction ;—they clamored for thy life ;—they beat Thee with rods, hailed Thee in mockery and derision as their king, crowned Thee with thorns, and at last suspended Thee on the cross, on which thou didst pour out thy soul unto death, a propitiation for the sins of a ruined world ! O mysterious expiation, O love unsearchable ! Angels gaze upon the unfathomable depth and are overwhelmed with wonder and amazement ! What can we, the children of a short and troubled day—what can we do, to comprehend a love that passeth knowledge !

Blessed Jesus, enable us to follow thee also in the path of thy exaltation. Neither the invisible world, nor the grave could detain thee. Thy soul was not left in *sheol*; thy holy body did not see corruption. In thy resurrection thou didst conquer death and the grave—and having ascended into heaven, thou hast resumed thy seat at the right hand of God ; angels, authorities, and powers being made subject unto thee! We now look up to the throne of glory on which thou art seated, and behold all power given to Thee in heaven, and in earth. The sinless orders of celestial beings, render unto thee supreme homage, as the true God and the Saviour of men. The vast multitude of the redeemed, already gathered into the upper sanctuary, adore thee day and night as the Lamb slain—the author of

their salvation ! Thine omniscient eye rests ever upon this earth, once the scene of thy humiliation, and thou regardest with a brother's sympathy the sinful heirs of immortality who dwell upon it ; thou intercedest in behalf of those whom the Father hath given thee ; thou art dispensing throughout thy church universal, and wherever the word of thy salvation is sent, the grace that is to enlighten, convert, and renew, a peculiar people unto thyself ;—and with a hand that never wearies, and an eye that never sleeps, thou art conducting the plan of mercy to its full consummation ; that the whole company of the elect being gathered in, the end may be, when thou shalt deliver up thy mediatorial kingdom to God, even the Father : then shalt thou thyself be subject unto Him, and God shall be all in all. But this time thou hast reserved in thine own hand, and of it knoweth no man, no, not even the angels of God.

Blessed Jesus, we look forward into the hidden depths of the future with joyful anticipation, when the new Jerusalem shall come down from God out of heaven, upon the new heavens and the new earth, when the tabernacle of God shall be with men, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. Rejoicing in this hope of the glory to be revealed, when time is no more, we commit with filial confidence all the interests of our immortal nature into thy hand. Salvation is thy purchase ; it is also thy gift. In the bestowal of it thou sharest not the glory with another. Of thee, and through thee, and to thee are all things—connected with the redemption of our lost world. The ransomed in heaven as-

cribe the undivided glory to the Lamb that sits upon the throne, who hath redeemed them by his blood, and we on earth seek to be filled with their sentiments, and to adopt their song. What have we done, or what can we do—to purchase the favor of God, which on account of our sins had been withdrawn from us—to secure a title to eternal life, which through our rebellion against God we had forfeited—to obtain a place at thy right hand for which the corruption and ungodliness of our souls had wholly disqualified us. Blessed Jesus, thou alone art the author of our salvation! Thou alone art the restorer of our hopes! It is thine to reconcile us unto God; it is thine to give eternal life to all them that believe; it is thine to make us a new creation; and to place us regenerated by thy spirit in possession of a world where all things shall be made new. Because thou art thus our Redeemer we put our whole trust in thee; we seek to be crucified to the world; to live a life of faith in the son of God who loved us and gave himself for us; and patiently to wait for the day of the revelation of Jesus Christ.

Blessed Jesus—our redeemer, guide, friend—ever prevent us from forgetting Thee. How much in time past have we been guilty of this forgetfulness though every day's experience served to convince us, that the spiritual life could be maintained in us only by a believing connection with Thee. As thou art with us always, may we always feel it: in weakness, in affliction, in arduous duty, in our joy, in our grief, in our living and our dying, be thou our Immanuel, our constant protector, our expectation and our joy. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Amen and Amen.

XIX.

PREPARATION FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION.

Infinite and eternal God, who dwellest in the heavens, before whom thousands of thousands of the most exalted intelligences are constantly ministering, we humbly adore thee, who condescendest to behold the things that are done upon the earth, and to dwell with the contrite and lowly in heart : Thou art not less the Creator, the preserver, the benefactor of our world, than thou art of the myriads of worlds revolving throughout the immensity of space. Multitude does not distract thee ; the sustenance of innumerable creatures throughout innumerable worlds does not drain thine inexhaustible fulness ; the upholding of the universe does not weary thine omnipotent arm. Almighty Ruler of the sky, we now reverently approach thee with our halleluias, fervently desiring all unworthy as we are, to bear a part in the universal hymn, which all intelligent natures should raise in adoration of the Creator, and only Lord God. Thou hast distinguished our world and race in a manner so peculiar and wonderful as demands hymns such as the ransomed race of man alone can employ. A race of sinners — thou hast forborne the infliction of justice which would have destroyed us. A race of ruined creatures — thou hast provided a Saviour to retrieve the

ruin ; thou hast distinguished this globe of ours, and the beings that inhabit it, by displaying thereon thine attribute of mercy which had not heretofore beamed forth to the adoring observation of the unsinning orders. By sending thine eternal Son into our world to assume our flesh and dwell among us, as the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth, thou hast magnified thy condescension and goodness by putting the highest honor on the nature least worthy of it, and displaying before the hierarchies of heaven, that thy mercy is as boundless and unsearchable as thine other attributes : thou hast manifested the inflexible rigor of thy justice, not indeed upon sinful and wretched man, but, O mysterious grace, upon the surety and redeemer of sinful and wretched man, who was wounded for our transgressions, and bruised for our iniquities. In the depth of his humiliation thou hast displayed thy holiness : in the scorn and contumely of men which he endured ; in the poverty and toil to which he submitted ; in the pain and ignominy through which he passed ; in the dread and mysterious agony of the garden, and the bitter exclamation extorted by the hiding of thy countenance from him on the cross ; in his last expiring groan —Thou hast manifested thy displeasure against sin, and shewn that only the holy one and the just could atone for man's guilt, and vindicate the honor of thy contemned authority ! O, that the lesson given to all the subjects of thy moral government in the humiliation and death of the redeemer may be rightly understood and felt by us, that we may evermore participate in the blessings flowing from the cross. Let the Saviour's humiliation deepen in

us the sense of our unworthiness ; let his sufferings impart a holy tenderness to our contrition ; let his ascension to the right hand of the throne of God, as our intercessor, kindle within us a fervent and purifying hope ; let the victory to which he is by his grace and spirit conducting the believer, and the crown of glory which he will bestow upon the victor inspire us with that pure, undying love, before which all that is base and earthly will disappear forever ! Lead us, O thou divine spirit, to the contemplation of these glorious truths ; quicken our understanding ; soften and spiritualize our hearts ; give an all-subduing impressiveness to thine own revealed doctrine—that we daily feeding upon it by a living faith may be enlightened and sanctified, and finally prepared for the inheritance of the saints in light.

What are we, Father Almighty, that such glorious things should be revealed to us ; that we should be the objects of such stupendous mercy—should be permitted to present unto thee such supplications, and yet know assuredly that thou art ready to do for us far above all that we can ask or think ! God our Creator, have we not received our being from thee ? Hast thou not endued us with reason and immortality that we might serve and love thee forever ? Hast thou not given thy son to die that we might be redeemed from death, and obtain a new eternal life, which we had forfeited, as thy free gift through Jesus Christ our Lord ?—Oh then regard us thy suppliant children with pity and favor ;—deny us not the grace through which we may be prepared to receive all the benefits of redemption. Lowly before thy mercy seat do we now prostrate

ourselves, confessing our sins, our very aggravated guilt, our abject and hopeless wretchedness. Regard us with compassion ; redeem and save us. Thou art not willing that any should perish ; there is forgiveness with thee that thou mayest be feared, and plenteous redemption that thou mayest be sought unto ; and now, and in all the residue of our days on earth, we will confide in thy promises and through the assistance of thy grace keep ourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ, unto eternal life.

And now, most merciful Father, that we are invited once more, in the fellowship of thy church, to observe that sacred rite in which the death of our Lord Jesus Christ is commemorated, we fervently implore thy gracious assistance, to enable us to examine ourselves, lest coming unworthily we should eat and drink condemnation to ourselves. Lay open to us the secrets of our hearts, our sins and shortcomings, that we may feel and with a true penitence confess our iniquities. How prone are we to forget the past, though there can be no forgetfulness with Thee ! How prone are we in the deceitfulness of our hearts to extenuate our guilt, though all its just demerit is before Thee ! The extent of our indwelling sin we fear we have hardly suspected, and the enormity we have not fully weighed. Yet our own hearts condemn us, and Thou art greater than our hearts and knowest all things. O that with contrite fervor we could utter the psalmist's petition—Search me, O God, and know my heart ; try me, and know my thoughts : and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.

O Lord, who art long suffering and slow to anger, may the consideration of thy patience and forbearance towards us manifest to us our ingratitude and disobedience as the more vile. Thou didst follow us with the richest bounties of thy providence even while we abused them ; Thou didst prolong our days even when we were wasting them in forgetfulness of Thee ; Thou didst restrain us from those sins that go open beforehand to judgment, even when we had cast off fear, and restrained prayer before God ; Thou didst preserve to us the ordinances of religion and render them a check on our sinful propensities and unbelief, even when we resisted their entire and saving impression ; and even since we have known the truth, and have deliberately chosen thy service, our purposes have been inconstant, our love of the world has too often quenched our love of the Father ; we have shrunk too much from self-denying duties ; we have, in a degree unbecoming the heirs of immortality, entangled ourselves with the affairs of this life, and have not pressed with a suitable ardor towards the mark for the prize of our high calling of God in Christ Jesus : and even at this moment, in lowly prostration before thy mercy-seat, and when our transgressions burden our conscience, we tremble lest our repentance should be defective, lest the resolutions we form of abandoning every evil way, should as in former instances, give way when temptation arises, and we should again be enslaved by the law of sin which is in our members. O God, Thou knowest us altogether ; all futurity is in thy sight and nought that shall befall us can be hidden from Thee. Have compassion upon our ignorance and weakness ;

preserve us in the hour of temptation and uphold our goings ; under the shadow of thy wings may we be hidden until the dangers and calamities of life be overpast ; clothe us with the robe of our Redeemer's righteousness, and transform us into his perfect image; inspire us with the faith and patience of the saints, and may we hold fast that which we have that no man take our crown.

And now that we have the near prospect of once more renewing our covenant with Thee at a communion table, we fervently implore thy grace to prepare us for the solemn duty. Make us truly to feel our own sinfulness ; give us broken and contrite hearts ; but endue us also with an humble trust in the Saviour's grace and all-sufficiency. Were the invitation not given to the maimed, the halt and the blind, we should tremble lest the master of the feast, finding us there should cast us into outer darkness. But all unworthy though we be the gracious invitation has been given to us ; and there is mercy with Thee that Thou mayest be feared and plenteous redemption that Thou mayest be sought unto. Without money and without price we come to participate in those unsearchable riches of truth and grace which it hath pleased Thee should dwell in the Saviour of men. Dispose us to cleave to him with our whole heart. May we build on this foundation which is laid on Zion, and evermore enjoy its security and peace.

Regard in thine infinite mercy these the desires of our heart which we present unto Thee in the name of Christ our Lord—to whom with Thee the Father and the Holy Spirit, we ascribe glory, honor and dominion, now and for ever, Amen.

XX.

THANKSGIVING AT THE COMMUNION
TABLE.

Lord, God, Almighty, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, we would call upon all that is within us to magnify and bless thy holy name. Thou art the Creator of all worlds, the life of all life, the author of all perfection, the fountain of all felicity. Around thine eternal throne in the heavens, thou hast assembled multitudes of holy and intelligent orders, whom no man can number, who have been since their creation the worshippers of thy glory, the objects of thy love. Though our race hath been made lower than the angels, we are not set beneath thy regard, for thou humblest thyself to behold the things that are done upon the earth. Thou didst create man holy and happy ; thou didst furnish this our dwelling-place with every gratification adapted to sense and soul, and thine own favor shed its joy on paradise. And O boundless benignity, O unsearchable love, when through transgression we had forfeited thy favor, when we had incurred the penalty of sin which is death, when sin had rendered earth a valley of sighs and tears, when eternity held out to the undying culprit nothing but a fearful looking for of indignation from the presence of our offended creator and

judge—thou didst regard with an eye of pity the self-ruined immortal, and in thine infinite mercy, didst reveal the scheme of his recovery. For the wonderful manifestation of thy love in our redemption, we, its objects, the sinful children of the dust, do now reverently and joyfully adore thee. Met according to thy command to commemorate it, we ask thy spirit to direct our meditations, to strengthen our faith, to enliven our affections, and wholly to prepare us for the solemn remembrance of him, who gave his life a ransom for the world. We do now humbly adore Thee for the predictions that foretold his advent; for the revelations of the glory of his person, and the extent and perpetuity of his dominion. We reverently adore thee for the prophetic intimations of his life of propitiatory suffering. We reverently adore thee for the lowly birth of Jesus, and for the accompanying song of angels,—glory to God in the highest, peace on earth, and good will towards the children of men. We reverently adore and bless thee for the benevolent miracles that he wrought, for the holy and sublime doctrines that he delivered, and for the perfect example of all goodness that he exhibited to man. Regarding him as the only mediator who came to purchase the redemption of the lost by suffering and price, we reverently adore thee for every act of his expiatory endurance—for his life of poverty; for the scorn and contumely he endured from his countrymen; for his weariness and toil; for the prayers he presented to the Father on our behalf in the solitude of the mountains; for his mysterious agony in the garden; for the suffering triumph, with which he uttered the exclamation,



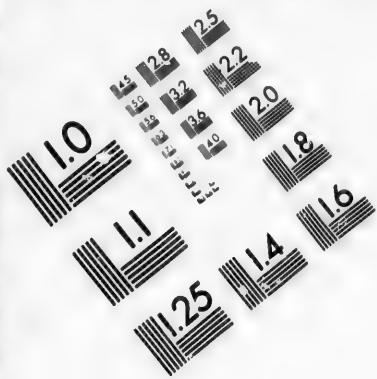
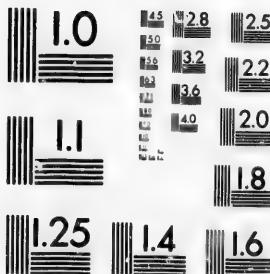
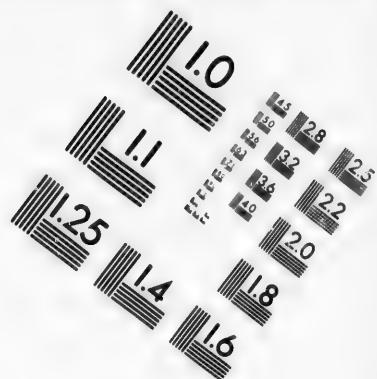
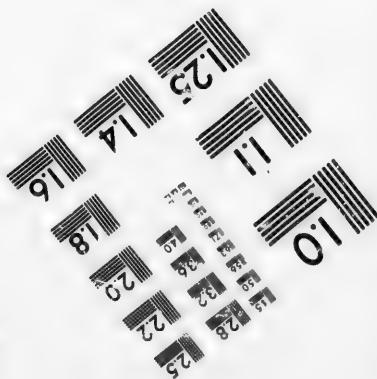


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“It is finished.” In the bread and wine, the consecrated emblems of his death and passion, enable us to discern by faith, his broken body, and his shed blood ; may we see Christ our paschal Lamb sacrificed for us ; divine justice propitiated ; divine mercy beaming from the cross, over all time, upon a guilty race ; grace purchased to conduct the countless multitude of the redeemed, from every nation, and kindred and people and tongue, to be kings and priests unto God forever, on the heavenly Zion. God of grace and mercy, comprehend us and all our fellow-communicants in this number, the purchase of the saviour’s atoning sacrifice. We now present ourselves in soul, body, and spirit, on this altar of dedication. We trust in a redeemer crucified for the remission of our aggravated guilt. Repenting in dust and ashes we engage through thy grace to forsake all sin. In the career of new obedience on which from this hour we purpose to enter, we humbly confide in his prevailing intercession and omnipotent guardianship. Engraft us, as branches into the true vine, and may its nourishment, as the fruit of the tree of life, preserve us unto a blessed immortality. In this feast of commemoration we ascribe the glory of our salvation to him that died for us, and we will shew the glory of his name unto the generations to follow. We look onward to his second coming ; we wait for his appearance ; we are assured, that unto those that wait for him, he shall appear a second time without a sin offering unto salvation, to gather into the kingdom of his glory those who were redeemed in the kingdom of his grace. Blessed advent of the glorious head of the triumphant church ! when the

tabernacle of God shall be with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God : and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes ; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, for the former things have passed away. Even so, come Lord Jesus. Filled with these blessed expectations with holy and affectionate veneration we shew forth the Lord's death, until he come again. With penitence and faith and hope may we surround his table, and renew our solemn engagement to be his for ever. This is the bread of life that came down from heaven, of which whosoever eateth shall hunger no more. Lord, evermore give us this bread, that we may feed on it by faith with thanksgiving. For in thee, O blessed Jesus, the redeemer of the world, our trust is, and to thee, with the Father and the blessed Spirit, we ascribe all glory, dominion and blessing, now and evermore, Amen.

XXI.

ON RETIRING FROM THE COMMUNION TABLE.

Almighty and most merciful Father, accept of our humble expressions of gratitude and love for that unmerited goodness which has again permitted us, in the fellowship of thy Church, to commemorate the atoning death of our Lord and Redeemer.

We have sat in his banqueting house and felt it good to be there. Graciously accept of our renewed dedication of ourselves to thy service; perfect our repentance and sustain us in the pious resolutions we have declared in our public profession of faith in his name. May the views of thy mercy to our ruined world which the sensible emblems of this holy ordinance presented to our minds be brightened and perpetuated, and constrain us with an unchanging steadfastness of purpose to live to Him who died for us. May we cherish the holy and ever-deepening conviction that we are not our own, that we are bought with a price, even with the precious blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and may we esteem it not only our duty but our chief happiness to glorify God in our bodies and spirits which are thine. Henceforth may we live by thy grace to thy glory. Give us grace to set our affections on things that are above, where Christ sitteth at the right hand of God: habitually elevated with a sense of our high destination, may we reject the sinful allurements of this transitory life and aspire after those spiritual joys which in thy great mercy are imparted to the faithful even in the present world, as an earnest of the perfect felicity reserved for them who are kept by the power of God unto eternal salvation.

But, O Lord most faithful and true, though we would not distrust thee, we greatly distrust ourselves: we are prone to unbelief, to false security, and to forgetfulness of things invisible. We are in an enemy's country—a world at enmity with Thee, and beset with incentives to evil we are too frail of ourselves to overcome them. Its amusements and

fashions, its pleasures and distinctions, are too highly valued by us and too eagerly pursued, while we shrink too timidly from its scorn and opposition. Familiar with its scenes we are prone to forget that it is in a state of rebellion against its Lord and Governor, and that if any man will be a disciple of Him who came to redeem it he cannot fail to provoke its enmity. Thy word declares that if any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of his ; and yet how deficient are we in that meekness and gentleness, that humility and heavenly mindedness, which were so conspicuous in his character ; and how far distant our imitation of that benevolent and unwearied activity which he displayed so divinely in his life.

Father of mercies, under a deep sense of our great sinfulness and many deficiencies do we this evening bow down before Thee. We call to mind the solemn engagements we this day entered into at thy table. We entertain a lively sense of the hindrances and dangers that may cause us to fail—as alas we have too often and very grievously failed in time past in the fulfilment of our sacramental vows. We acknowledge the vile ingratitude of acting in any manner that might bring reproach on the holy name by which we are called, and the fearful responsibility of such unfaithfulness. O Lord, look with compassion on our helpless, perilous condition. O thou who givest power to the saint and encreasest strength to them who have no might, make thy grace sufficient for us and perfect thy strength in our weakness. Armed in the panoply of righteousness, may we acquit ourselves as good soldiers of the Lord Jesus, and by the Cap-

tain of our salvation, in whom we trust, may we be brought off more than conquerors.

Giving utterance before Thee, our Lord and God, to these our fears and hopes, our desires and purposes, we humbly beseech thee to stir us up to a faithful and holy use of all the means appointed for training us to virtue and conducting us to eternal life. May we be constant in the serious and devout reading of thy blessed word. May stated religious retirement and prayer advance reason to the mastery, and nurture within us all holy affections and godliness. May the fellowship of saints and the ordinances of thy house ever communicate to us spiritual refreshment and strength ; and while we depend upon thee with a pure heart may we experience that thou hast innumerable channels by which to communicate every necessary blessing to the children of thine heritage.

And now that we and the brethren who in thy house have broken with us the bread of life, must soon return to the business and perils of the world, we humbly beseech thee, O Lord, to preserve indelibly upon our hearts the holy purposes which we have this day formed. Maintaining our integrity may we manifest to the world that we are the disciples of Him who was holy, harmless, undefiled, and separate from sinners. Give us grace to discharge the duties of our respective callings : being diligent in business may we also be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord : and so direct and prosper all our temporal affairs that we may have the ability of providing things honest in the sight of all men, and in such measures as befit the station of life in which thy providence has placed us. Prepare us for

coming events which are all known to thee and wisely ordained. May we acquiesce in thy wisdom, rely on thy goodness, and both in life and death yield ourselves up to thy merciful disposal.

Almighty Lord, our heavenly Father, let the remembrance of all thy past goodness animate us with a cheerful confidence in thy paternal care; and while we are borne onward to eternity, may it be with the sure hope that we are journeying to the abounding felicities of a better world. Sustain us by thy gracious hand in every step of our pilgrimage thitherward, and when we are safely brought to our Father's house may it be cause for songs of gratitude and joy, that on earth, in profession and life, we have confessed His name, who shall acknowledge us before his Father and the holy angels. Now unto Him that loved us, and hath washed us from our sins in his own blood; to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever, Amen.

XXII.

FOR A SABBATH SCHOOL.

Heavenly Father, who hath endued us with reason and rendered us accountable, and destined us for immortality, we adore and bless thee for the rank assigned us in the scale of being, and for the hopes to which we are begotten through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. So dispose us, we beseech Thee, by thy Holy Spirit, that we may ever

feel and act as the heirs of glory, honor and immortality ; seeking amidst the meaner occupations of the present world to attain the proper distinctions of rational and regenerate creatures, that when we are removed from earth we may stand before Thee in thy heavenly kingdom.

And since it hath pleased Thee, O Lord, to commit to our own care the cultivation and training of the mind, graciously assist us in the use of those means by which that end may be best attained, and render our endeavors successful ; so that our knowledge may ever minister to piety and qualify us for the right discharge of all the duties of our condition.

More especially at this time, we pray Thee, to look on the young here assembled with compassion, and bestow upon them the blessings that they severally need. Teach them wisely to value and rightly to improve the spring-time of their life. Endue them with the fear of God which is the beginning of wisdom, that during the residue of their days on earth they may walk before Thee unto all well pleasing. Preserve them from the blindness of passion, the deceitfulness of sin, and the snares of the world. Grant that in their parents and guardians they may have continually before them the examples of a true and enlightened piety to win their earliest affections to truth and holiness, and to direct and animate their earliest efforts in the pursuit of them : and if spared to mature life may they properly fill the sphere of action that shall be allotted to them, and leave behind them a righteous name to be held in everlasting remembrance. Let thy favor abide upon their teachers. Confer upon them all neces-

sary gifts. May they be apt to teach, ready to communicate, and unwearied in the labor of love in which they have engaged ; and in thy mercy honor them with the rich reward promised to those who save a soul from death, and restore the erring to the path of righteousness. Hear our humble prayer, and accept of us for the sake of Christ Jesus, our Lord, Amen.

XXIII.

FOR A FUNERAL.

Almighty God, in whom we live and move and have our being, we worship and adore Thee, as the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the same yesterday, to day and for ever. Thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created. Thou measurest out the period of their continuance, and at thy command they are dissolved. We the children of men are but of yesterday ; as a leaf we fade and as the stream of brooks we pass away. Sin hath brought death into our world, and death is sweeping successive generations into the land of forgetfulness. O that we felt with a deeper solemnity that this is not our rest ; that this is only the introductory stage of our being, in which the soul may be disciplined by trial and purified by grace for that more exalted and enduring condition on which the shadows of a coming eternity are yet resting.

O God, with whom are the issues of life, keep us in constant remembrance of our origin and end ; that as we come of the dust so we return to dust again. May the reign of death over a sinful world be to us a perpetual memento of thy just displeasure against sin ; and while we look forward in holy solicitude to the doom that awaits us, dispose us to rely with humble faith on Him who is the conqueror of death and the spoiler of the grave. With hearts soothed and grateful we now recal the words that he spake :—I am the resurrection and the life ; he that believeth on me though he were dead yet shall he live, and he that liveth and believeth on me shall never die. For thy name's sake, O Lord, and for thy mercy's sake, redeem us from the curse of sin, and the power of corruption ; and although it be appointed us to abide that part of the penalty which consigns the body to dissolution, may we in thine abundant mercy be delivered from that heavier part which separates the soul from Thee and happiness for ever. Inspire us, most merciful Father, with that faith, to which Thou hast annexed the promise of everlasting life ; may we be born again of the spirit ; and by a faithful discharge of the duties of our station may we so improve present opportunities that when we are called to depart, our souls may return into the hands of a merciful Creator, and our bodies be consigned to the grave to rest in hope.

Sanctify to us, O God, the present mournful dispensation. May it impress upon our hearts the uncertainty of life and the fleeting nature of all its joys. We behold our friends and neighbours one after another withdrawn from the pursuits and du-

ties, the joys and sorrows, of the present scene, and dropping into the dark and silent grave. O that we were aroused to serious thought, to the habitual remembrance that we too must die, and to a timely preparation for that solemn event. May we ever be found in watchfulness and prayer, in the path of truth and holiness, standing with our loins girt and our lamps burning, that when the voice of the Bridegroom is heard we may go forth arrayed in the robe of his righteousness, and enter into his kingdom and glory.

God of all grace and consolation, who hath commanded us to weep with them that weep, we indulge our affectionate sympathy with the mourning relatives of the departed one whose mortal remains we are now about to commit to the dust; and we earnestly beseech Thee to comfort their hearts and teach them in this day of darkness and sorrow to put their trust in Thee, whose wisdom is unerring, whose loving-kindness is for ever upon them that fear Thee. Sanctify to them and us every affliction and bereavement; and while by these we are made to feel the insecurity of all earthly connections, the uncertainty of all earthly good, may we be enabled to set our affections on those regions of uninterrupted bliss, where there is no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, nor pain, for the former things are passed away. Now may the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus Christ, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work to do his will, working in us that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever, Amen.

XXIV.

FOR THE FUNERAL OF A CHILD.

Almighty Lord our God, who hath graciously invited us to draw near unto Thee amidst all our sorrows and tribulations, that we may obtain the consolation and support which Thou alone canst give, regard, we humbly beseech Thee, the supplications which we now present unto thy divine majesty; hear the sighing of the afflicted; bind up the broken in heart and heal the wounded in spirit.

Teach us, O thou Sovereign disposer of all events, to bow in humble submission to every appointment of thy providence, from the abiding conviction that every event that is permitted to beset thy children is the result of unerring wisdom and unmixed benignity. Let the many changes that are daily passing around us, and the frequent inroads of death upon the dearest circles, raise our affections to that unseen world where the sorrows of mortality are known no more; and as through thy great mercy, life and immortality are clearly brought to light in the gospel of thy Son, our Lord and Redeemer, may the blessed revelation wean us from all inordinate attachment to earthly things, and incite us to a more earnest preparation for the eternal world on which we must ere long enter.

Our Father, which art in heaven, we humbly thank Thee, from the darkness of that cloud with

which thou hast covered us, for the soothing hopes and consolations of the gospel. Through the gracious interposition of thy sovereign mercy the death of the body is not the death of the soul, but that mysterious and solemn change is to thy children the entrance upon a more glorious existence. Thus assured we grieve not at their departure as those who have no hope; but we look forward to the hour when all who sleep in Jesus shall be raised to the felicities of an endless life in thine own immediate presence in the heavens; when in the exercise of sovereign love Thou shalt bestow a gracious recompence on thy chosen seed, whether they have been removed from this mortal state amidst the infirmities of age or the sighs of infancy.

Be pleased, O God of all consolation, to comfort the hearts of this bereaved family with those visions of faith and hope which are the sunshine of thine heritage. May humility and acquiescence, the fruits of faith, sweeten the waters of bitterness which Thou hast given them to drink. Enable them to follow with an illumined eye the departed whom they so lately dedicated to Thee in baptism, now in thy mercy numbered among the little ones in thy heavenly kingdom: may they rejoice in the assurance of that perfect peace and security to which this dear pledge of their affection is now raised, and bless thee amidst their weeping that thou hast taken it away from the evils to come.

And, O Lord our God, who as it seemeth good in thy sight, minglest in our cup joy or grief, instruct us by this affecting event how soon the delight of our eyes may be taken away, and the tenderest bonds of affection and relationship dissever-

ed,—that we may not permit even the purest objects of earthly attraction to steal away our hearts from thee. While we receive with gratitude those temporal blessings which perish in the using, and taste the pleasures of those relationships which death shall ere long dissolve, teach us to look beyond the grave for an incorruptible inheritance, and for better relationships that shall exist for ever. May the God of all grace who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that we have suffered awhile, make us perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle us. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever, Amen.

SPECIAL SUPPLICATIONS

*That may be used with several of the preceding
prayers as occasion requireth.*

I. FOR NATIONS.

Most holy and ever blessed God by whom all things are created, upheld, and governed, to Thee the shields of the earth belong, and kingdoms have no sure defence but in thy favor and guardianship; we pray that all the nations of the world may reverently worship thy holy name, devoutly acknowledge thy over-ruling providence, and gratefully receive the revelation of thy mercy vouchsafed to mankind in the gospel; and as human government can have no sure peace or stability but as its laws are in conformity with thine, grant, we beseech Thee, that all kings, rulers and legislators may be enlightened with the wisdom which is from above, that they may ever do those things that are right and well pleasing unto Thee. Restraine the spirit of pride and the lust of dominion which have so often caused the hand of man to be lifted up against his fellow and drenched the earth with blood. Unite the nations of the world as one kindred in the faith and hope of the gospel and may each labor to promote the universal good as the surest good of the indivi-

dual. Vouchsafe thy blesing to every means that may be employed to ameliorate the lot of humanity. Subvert the power of the oppressor and let men created in thine image every where enjoy that freedom which Thou hast bestowed as their inalienable right: and as thou hast appointed moral and intellectual culture to be our own task and duty be pleased in thy gracious providence to bestow upon every community and order, the proper means for attaining this object. Let schools and seminaries of learning be established in every land accessible to the poorest and most obscure : and may the ordinances of religion be so administered in purity and efficiency that truth, righteousness and piety may every where prevail.

2. FOR KINGS AND ALL IN AUTHORITY.

In obedience to thy command we offer up our prayers and intercessions for Kings and all that are in authority. It hath pleased Thee to establish governments for the preservation of order and justice among men, and to raise some to the exalted office of administering the law and ruling over others. Raise to offices of trust and authority those only who shall be qualified by their wisdom and virtue for exerting a beneficial influence over their fellow men. Surround the thrones of this world by such as shall be honored with a place around thy throne. May neither the lust of popular applause nor the dread of popular clamour cause them to swerve from the path of rectitude. Reckoning it a small matter to be judged of man's judgment since He that judgeth them is the Lord, may they continue

immovable in truth and equity committing to Thee their cause. Before thy tribunal exalted rank cannot screen sin from its just award ; sovereign and subject must equally render their account unto Thee for the deeds done in the body whether they be good or bad : may this consideration so influence magistrates of every degree that in their public office they may govern in thy fear and in their private conduct be patterns of all righteousness. Dispose them to be nursing fathers to thy church, and to promote the establishment of that everlasting kingdom which consists in righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

3. FOR OUR OWN SOVEREIGN AND GOVERNMENT.

Bless our Sovereign the Queen. Sustain her under that burden of cares and troubles to which crowns are subject ; incline her to rule in thy fear and to promote thy glory ; and after an honorable and prosperous reign, may she receive the reward of the righteous--the crown of life that fadeth not away. Bless and direct the two Houses of Parliament of the United Kingdom and overrule all their deliberations for the national welfare. Let thy especial favor abide upon this Colony in which our lot is cast. Guide the Queen's representative, our Governor, in all the acts of his administration ; and may the provincial councils be led to the adoption of those measures that will best advance the well-being of the community. May all the inhabitants of the land be truly grateful for the peace and security that they enjoy, and may supreme love to Thee and an enlightened good will to man, animate

every bosom and manifest to all that we are a people whom the Lord hath blessed.

4. FOR THE STATE IN A TIME OF UNSETTLEDNESS AND DISQUIET.

God of truth and justice and equity, ruling among the nations, whose word stilleth the noise and tumult of popular commotion, send forth among the people of this land a peaceable and contented spirit. May we, humbled before Thee on account of our sins and grateful for thy undeserved goodness, ever study to render homage to thy name by a lawful and conscientious obedience to the powers whom Thou hast ordained to rule over us, that so our land, being delivered from all disquietude, may always enjoy thy favor in peace and prosperity.

5. FOR THE COURTS OF JUSTICE.

Make thy servants the presiding judges, enlightened, impartial and inflexible in right ; make jurors candid, discriminating and conscientious ; may all who give testimony be impressed with the dread solemnity of an oath ; and as exposed to the immediate inspection and sure retribution of Almighty God may they plainly declare the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth, so far as is known to them : thus, O God of truth and equity, may the administration of justice among us be purely maintained so that the injurious party may be defeated, and all our fellow-citizens secured in the undisturbed possession of their rights. May all in offices of trust and authority combine to check the progress

of vice and profaneness, that violence and disorder may no more be known in our land. Make our officers peace and our exactors righteousness : and incline all who are subject to our government of just authority and equal laws, to lead quiet and peaceable lives in all godliness and honesty.

6. FOR THE CHURCH.

Arise, O Lord, and have mercy upon Zion, when the time to favor her the set time is come ; for thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favor the dust thereof ; so the heathen shall fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. Rebuild her desolations, remove her corruptions, heal her divisions. Let not the infidel and the scorner triumph, as if the scriptures given by thy inspiration, were powerless and perishable as the heathen oracles. Vindicate thine own faithfulness and truth that the nations of the world may fear thy name and obey thy law. Thou, O God, who laidest the foundations of the earth art the unchangeable and eternal supporter of thy church : and as Thou hast foretold the dissolution of this frame of nature so also Thou hast assured us that the Redeemer's cause shall triumph on earth before that grand catastrophe. Incline us therefore at all times to rejoice in God our Saviour, assured that the children of his servants shall continue, and be multiplied exceedingly to the end of time ; and that his seed shall be established for ever in the heavens.

7. FOR OUR OWN PASTOR AND HIS CHARGE.

O Lord we bless Thee that in the exercise of thy supreme wisdom and authority, it hath pleased Thee to institute the preaching of the gospel and the administration of sacred ordinances for the conversion of sinners and the edification of those that believe ; and we reverently acknowledge thy over-ruling providence in the bond of christian fellowship which in this place we have formed. Endue, we beseech Thee, thy servant our pastor with the spirit of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. In his pastoral work may he shrink from no labor, be disconcerted by no difficulty, be intimidated by no danger. Conscious of his own infinite obligations to redeeming mercy may he proclaim it faithfully to others. Fill his heart with such love for the souls of those to whom he is called to minister that no obstinacy shall exhaust, no provocation weary, no flattery corrupt, no seduction allure him from the duty he owes them, and Him who died for them. Enlighten him with clear and comprehensive views of divine truth : let the secret of the Lord dwell with him : give him power impressively to declare thy message, and let the word spoken be accompanied with demonstration of thy spirit, that it may accomplish all the purposes whereunto Thou hast sent it. Dispose the people to listen with serious and devout attention. When they come up to worship in thy sanctuary give them sincerity and fervency of spirit. Let their thoughts be directed into all wisdom, and their bosoms filled with piety and love. Awaken the attention of the thoughtless ; melt the hearts of the obdurate ; reclaim such as have de-

parted from the way of truth, and visit with consolation those who are sad and weary in their minds ; and grant that the sabbath may always return upon thy people in peace, and bring its sacred privileges and enjoyments, that in due time we may be raised to thy sanctuary above and dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

8. FOR ALL MINISTERS OF OUR ZION.

Most blessed God our Heavenly Father, by whose authority and commission thy servants have been put into the holy ministry, endue them with wisdom from above and grace to be faithful and able ministers of the New Testament. May they always feel the solemn responsibility resting upon them, that unseduced by the smile and unawed by the frowns of the world, they may by demonstration of the truth commend themselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. Enlighten their understandings with brighter manifestations of divine truth ; give them a larger experience of its practical and sanctifying efficacy ; make them the honored instruments of its dissemination, and through it may many be converted from the error of their ways and brought back to the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls. Let theirs be the high honor of planting a church in this land which shall maintain the simplicity of the gospel of Christ and extend its saving benefits to remotest time. Inspire our spiritual rulers with wisdom, unity, and moderation in all their measures and councils. May thy glory and the furtherance of the Redeemer's kingdom be their chief and only aim ; and when, through thine

infinite mercy, they have closed a useful life by a holy and happy death, may they receive the reward of those who have turned many to righteousness and shine as stars in the firmament for ever and ever.

9. FOR AN INCREASE OF THE MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH.

O Lord who hath appointed those offices necessary for the edifying of the body of Christ for the conversion of the world, and the eternal salvation of all who believe, send forth into the spiritual harvest such laborers as Thou shalt prepare and bless, workmen worthy of the truth, and of Him whose ambassadors they are to a race of fallen immortals. Alas, who is sufficient for these things? Who is worthy to stand between the dead and the living that the plague may be stayed? What tongue of man can suitably declare thy truth, thy mercy, thy love to a race so miserable and undeserving as ours? Send, O Lord, by whom Thou wilt send. Shed down upon our schools and colleges the healthful spirit of thy grace that the young destined for the work of the ministry may early experience the saving efficacy of the truths they are to teach, that they may be able with a good conscience to say, "we speak that which we do know, and testify that which we have seen and felt;—be ye therefore followers of us even as we are of Christ Jesus;—necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel, seeing a dispensation thereof is committed unto me."

10. FOR THE ELDERS OF THE CHURCH.

Visit, O Lord, with thy great mercy all such as are appointed to take part in the government of the church. May they stand forth as ensamples to the flock in all wisdom, zeal, and purity. Evincing the meekness and the gentleness of Christ in all the duties and relations of life, may they by well doing, put to silence the ignorance of foolish men. Wise and faithful in the maintenance of a pure discipline may they be successful in preserving thine heritage free from the reproach and scandal of the ungodly. Give them grace to watch over thy flock as they that must give account; warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom, that they may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus.

11. FOR THE DEACONS OF THE CHURCH.

May thy servants to whom the management of the temporal affairs of this congregation is committed be men of honest report, full of the Holy Ghost and wisdom, holding the mystery of the faith in a pure conscience. In all matters connected with their office may they act as diligent, disinterested and faithful stewards for thine heritage. May they continually devise liberal things, and be supported by the affectionate confidence of a liberal people. Prevent them from falling into the spirit of the world in conducting the secular affairs of this spiritual community. Let holiness be inscribed on every person and on every thing belonging to thy sanctuary. Dispose this congregation to fidelity in all its engagements, to a beneficent support of every

christian enterprize, to a cheerful promptitude in consecrating a just proportion of their substance to sacred uses, remembering the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, how he said,—it is more blessed to give than to receive.

12. FOR THE SICK AND DYING.

O Lord, look in mercy and compassion on thy children whom thou hast visited with severe bodily affliction. Make all their bed in their sickness, and be Thou at their right hand that they may not be greatly moved. Inspire them with humble resignation and may they never forget that they are in thy hands who orderest all things well. God of Israel, who slumberest not, nor sleepest, refresh them during their painful and restless nights with the visitations of heavenly joy. May meditation on the Savior's love revive them, believing that being found in him they shall not lack any good thing. O God who controulest the elements of nature, and hast fashioned the frame of man with transcendant skill, grant, if it please Thee, success to means used for the restoration of thy servant's health, and may they yet glorify Thee on earth by a holy and pious life. But in this let our prayers be offered with entire submission to thy will ; knowing that life and death are at thy disposal and that to all who are in Christ Jesus, to live is Christ and to die gain. Take away from the dying all distressing fear of death. Let not the shadows and gloom of the dark valley shake their confidence in Thee who hast promised to conduct them through it in safety. Cheered by the presence of the Savior who has pas-

sed through it before them and for them, may their faith and hope triumph over the pains and weakness of expiring nature, and enable them to exclaim with their last breath,—thanks be to God who giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. And O God, if the shout of victory should be denied, if the light of thy countenance, from the pressure of their malady, should shine but dimly upon the soul, yet remove from them disquietude and fear;—Thou who knowest our frame and rememberest that we are dust, look in compassion on thy servants in their departing hour; and let Thy Holy Spirit enlighten and purify, sustain and comfort them through the last stage of this weary pilgrimage, until absent from the body they are present with the Lord.

13. PREPARATION FOR DEATH.

O God who art the same yesterday, to day and for ever, teach us wisdom by the manifold changes that are taking place around us. Thou art daily removing our friends and associates by the stroke of death. Thou sendest the destroyer into the family circle and the voice of weeping is heard in the streets. When we enter into the sanctuary we miss some who were wont to accompany us thither; when we sit down at the table of communion we miss those who once sat with us at the feast, but are now removed from all terrestrial fellowship. Teach us to know our end and the measure of our days what it is that we may know how frail we are: for we are strangers before Thee and sojourners as were all our fathers: our days on the earth are as a shadow and there is none abiding. Preserve

us, O Lord, from that delusive security of life of which we are so prone to dream ; and from that engrossment with worldly pursuits which excludes the thought of death and interrupts preparation for eternity. Enable us rather so to contemplate the numerous mementoes of our approaching dissolution, both in the abodes of the living and in the burial places of the dead, that we dying daily may not be overtaken unprepared by the last enemy. Let the life of faith conduct us to the death of faith ; may a holy and useful course procure for us in thine abundant mercy a peaceful or triumphant departure ; and when we pass into eternity, may we be where Thou art to behold thy glory

14. FOR PARENTS.

Impress upon the hearts of all parents their solemn responsibility to bring their children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. May they rule well their own households with all diligence in thy fear. May their proper authority be strengthened by the consistency of their christian deportment. Lead them to an affectionate assiduity in the inculcation of divine truth upon the minds of their offspring ; give them success in awakening and cherishing the dispositions of early piety, and may they behold the seeds of holiness springing up early and bringing forth precious fruit in these objects of their parental love : and grant, most merciful Father, that the rising generation may be more eminent than those who have gone before them in all the graces and activities of the christian life ; that they may become the instruments of introducing

that purer era of the church to which the sure word of prophecy hath directed our hopes.

15. FOR TEACHERS AND SCHOOLS.

Bless all schools and seminaries of learning. May their teachers be pious, enlightened and laborious ; instilling by their instructions and recommending by their example reverence of thy name and submission to thine authority. Provide for all classes of men a free access to useful knowledge ; and ever bestow the accompanying influence of thy grace that their knowledge may be sanctified in all its applications.

16. FOR OUR FRIENDS AND BENEFACTORS.

Lord our God who delightest in the happiness of every creature which Thine hands have formed, who hast so greatly augmented ours by the number of our friends and of those who do us good, vouchsafe, we beseech Thee, to these the objects of our love and gratitude, the imperishable riches of thy grace ; enlighten and sanctify their souls ; bestow upon them every needful temporal blessing ; requite them manifold for all the favors and kindnesses they have shown to us ; and so preserve them amidst the snares and dangers of this troublesome world, that they may finally reach the mansions of everlasting rest.

17. FOR A JOURNEY BY LAND.

O Son of man, who in the days of thy flesh didst often journey and wast wearied, preserve us in all

our ways and refresh us in all our weariness ;
vouchsafe to us an humble sense of thy favorable
presence and bring us to the end of our journey in
peace and safety ; and whensover the journey of
life is finished may an entrance be administered to
us abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our
Lord Jesus Christ.

18. FOR A JOURNEY BY WATER.

God of all the ends of the earth and of them
that are afar off upon the sea, without whose pro-
tecting care and favor we are never safe—preserve
us in this our voyage with thine all powerful arm ;
ward off from us every unforeseen accident, and
bring us in comfort to the place whither we are
bound : and as once thy church in the ark rode in
safety over the bosom of the waters that deluged
the earth, so may we, the disciples of Christ our ark
and refuge, surmount all the dangers of this evil
world and in thine infinite mercy arrive safely in
the haven of everlasting rest.

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PRAYERS
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1. MORNING PRAYER FOR A WEEK DAY.

Most holy, just, wise, and ever blessed God, we will never cease to offer up unto Thee such adoration and worship as our imperfect nature, enlightened and strengthened by thy grace, may enable us to render. We adore Thee as the only Lord, God, the creator of this lower world which thou hast framed for our temporary habitation. Thou hast created the light to disclose to us its wonders, and made our days seasons of intellectual improvement and pleasure : all creation is bright with thy glorious attributes. May the evidences of wise and beneficent design which it every where affords be devoutly contemplated and cherish within us profound admiration of thy creative power and wisdom, a humble reliance in thy boundless goodness, a holy reverence and supreme love, of which thou O God alone art the proper object. Wheresoever we turn our eyes in this vast temple of nature, in which we are placed, let the perfections of thine ever present godhead beam forth so brightly upon our souls as to fill us with reverential awe, with enlightened sub-

mission and filial piety ; and as we are continually exposed to thine all-searching inspection, may we ever be animated with those sentiments which are well pleasing in thy sight.

But Ah Lord our God, we feel how destitute we are of that devout and spiritual frame of mind in which we desire to live. With humiliation and penitence we confess that we are sinful and depraved creatures ; we are averse from that spiritual rectitude which thou requirest ; the disorders of a fallen nature are daily manifesting themselves in our thoughts, feelings, and actions ; our souls do not now receive their chief enjoyment in the contemplation and worship of thy character, though this is the end for which we were created ; we labor under a spiritual inability and disinclination for the exercises of religion. Alas, O Lord, thou art often to us as one afar off, though thou art never far from any one of us, since we live and move and have our being in Thee. Ah sinful and wretched creatures that we are in being so much alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance that is in us, because of the blindness of our hearts.

O God most holy, O Lord most merciful, it is because thou art long suffering and slow to anger, not willing that we should perish, but rather that we should turn and live, that we have not been cut down in our iniquities, nor finally rejected from the hope of reconciliation, but, through the Gospel of Thy Son, our Saviour, are still called to repentance and the hope of eternal life. We bless and magnify thy holy name for thy merciful interposition in behalf of our fallen race, by Jesus Christ whom thou hast set forth a propitiation, through faith in

his blood, to declare his righteousness, for the remission of sins that are past through the forbearance of God.

In him, O Lord, do we trust for mercy and forgiveness. Bestow on us for his sake what we could not presume to claim on account of any merit in ourselves. May we, who by our past sinfulness have forfeited all title to thy favor, be admitted of thine abundant mercy to the adoption of sons. Lead us to an unfeigned repentance; give us a deep and sorrowful sense of our guilt and misery; convince us that in thy mercy alone there is hope, and while we flee by faith to thee our only refuge, may the humble trust that we are interested in it, inspire us with holy resolution to live to the glory of Him, who hath called us, both by his life and death, to glory and virtue.

O Lord, enable us so habitually to discern and feel our obligations to a holy life and its eminent desirableness, both for time and eternity—that we may constantly be moved to consecrate our time and ability to its attainment. Give us decision of holy purpose. Endue us with the power of self-denial, that we may be prepared to renounce present and temporary gratifications, in the pursuit of the proper perfection and felicity of our spiritual and immortal nature. And as the time wherein our preparation must be made for the eternal world is so short and uncertain, may our solicitude and diligence be the greater, in making our calling and election sure, that we may be found of Thee in peace, washed, justified, sanctified, redeemed.

During this day, may we be graciously assisted in fulfilling the duties of our station; in redeeming

time, improving opportunities, acquiring wisdom, and in promoting its ends ; and let such a devout and solemn sense of thy omnipresence fill our souls, as shall preserve us from sin, and enable us to stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. * * *

I. EVENING PRAYER FOR A WEEK DAY.

Father of mercies, the closing shades of evening call us once more as humble worshippers into thy more immediate presence. From thy essential presence we know that we can at no time flee; for it pervades immensity, and in the perfection of thy being and attributes thou fillest all things. But when we draw near to thee in worship, thou vouchsafest to us a deeper, holier consciousness of thy omnipresence ; thou givest us brighter apprehensions of thy glory ; thou fillest our souls with reverence & humility, with faith and love. When through thy spirit we obtain nearness of access to Thee, the thick darkness which encompasses the carnal mind is dissipated and beholding thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ we are enabled to cry, Abba Father.

How great is thy goodness, Almighty Creator, in calling us into being, in enduing us with the faculties and raising us to the enjoyments of a rational life. By thy power our bodies have been curiously and wonderfully made. Through thine inspiration we have received understanding. By thy gracious providence, food is furnished for every appetite, gratification for every sense, and improving exercise for every faculty of the soul. We thank and bless thee for the numerous sources of enjoyment to

which we have this day been permitted to repair. Thou hast spread before us the grand and beautiful in nature ; we have anew, and under various forms witnessed the displays of thy power, and wisdom, and goodness ; in thy word, divine truth has been presented to us in various and impressive combinations ; and we trust that the affections of adoring gratitude, and wonder, and praise have been awakened into greater energy. Bless the Lord, O my soul ; and all that is within me, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits : Who forgiveth all thine iniquities ; who healeth all thy diseases ; who redeemeth thy life from destruction ; who crowneth thee with loving-kindness and tender mercies ; who satisfieth thy mouth with good things ; so that thy youth is renewed like the eagle's.

But, O God, the searcher of hearts, with what darkness, ignorance, and corruption, are we still encompassed. How little know we of thine unsearchable nature, of the vastness of thy works, and of thy mysterious ways. Nay—we are a mystery to ourselves—for the heart of man who can know it ? Yet we feel that this knowledge is of highest moment to us—since without it we cannot know Thee, we cannot serve Thee. O Thou eternal spirit, the comforter, whom the Father hath promised to send in the name of Jesus, thou teacher and guide of erring man, discover to us what we are ; disclose to us our native and acquired corruption ; make us feel the chains with which sin hath bound us ; the state of spiritual disease and feebleness into which it hath brought us ; let our conscience be so enlightened and instructed that we may discern

thy just judgment impending over us as guilty, rebellious subjects of thy government; make our too insensible hearts tremble under the terrors of a violated law; keep the sense of our sinfulness so constantly in our remembrance that we may be ever penitent and humble, shut up unto the cross of Christ, from which alone mercy can flow to the sinner. God of mercy, we would now embrace that cross—we would now receive as our savior, our redeemer, our atonement, Him who died upon it. Extend, O Blessed Jesus, thine arms to receive us. Intercede for us, before the throne of God. Number us among thy chosen ones. Grant unto us repentance and remission of sins through thy blood. Become to us in thy gospel wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. Give us thy grace now that hereafter we may be partakers of thy glory.

And this grace we earnestly crave not only that we may be made partakers of thy mercy but that we may also be made partakers of thy holiness. Our happiness flows from thy favor; but it also flows from a resemblance to thy perfect image. For this purpose Christ died that we might be made like unto him and behold his glory. Remove then every stain of sin from our souls—the vain thought, the unholy affection, the sinful desire, the whole of that carnal mind which is enmity against Thee, and which refuses subjection to thy law. Create within us a clean heart, renew within us a right spirit, in which love to Thee shall be enthroned, which shall find its happiest employment in contemplating, adoring, obeying Thee, in every hour and in every act of life. O happy transition! O desirable regen-

eration! Cause us now, O God, through thine omnipotent and sovereign grace to pass through it, that in this life we may shew forth thy glory, and in the world to come inherit the everlasting kingdom prepared for them that love Thee.

Heavenly Father, regard the dear members of this family with that favour which Thou bearest to thine own. May our names be written in the book of life, and whatever be our separate allotments on earth, may we all be united at last in heaven. Grant that our present connexion and intercourse may be blessed and sweetened, not only by the tender affections of natural relationship, but by the tenderer charities of the gospel; and may it be our constant aim so to aid and encourage each other in all the duties of piety and virtue, that the connexion which has been formed among us in the present world may be preserved and perfected in eternity. Continue to bestow upon us such a measure of health and wealth as shall be most conducive to our spiritual well-being. Sanctify to us all the past afflictions and bereavements with which we have been visited. May we gratefully remember thy loving-kindness in the midst of all that we have suffered, that our confidence in thee may never fail. For thy loving-kindness is from generation to generation upon them that fear Thee, and thy righteousness unto children's children, unto such as keep thy covenant, and to those who remember thy commandments to do them. To thy paternal care we this night commit ourselves, looking forward in faith and hope to the night of death and the morning of the resurrection: and now to the ever-blessed and adorable Trinity, Father, Son, and Spirit, we ascribe glory and dominion, world without end, Amen.

II. MORNING PRAYER FOR A WEEK DAY.

Self-existent, eternal, omnipotent Jehovah, by whose command all created things rose into being—we worship Thee, our creator, preserver, and benefactor. All the hosts of heaven praise Thee in unceasing halleluias. They cast their crowns before thy throne in awe and reverence, and in serving, and praising Thee, they are supremely blessed. Raise our souls this morning to a fitness for the same exalted employments. Refine us from the dross of this evil world; remove from us the darkness, which sin hath brought around the soul—that, beholding thy glory brightly manifested, every faculty of our moral nature may be entranced with awe and love, and we may join with all our powers in that anthem of praise which arises to Thee from the worshippers of innumerable worlds.

Thou coverest thyself in the garment of unapproachable light. Thou sittest in the vast circle of the heavens, from which this earth, and all it contains, dwindleth as into nothing; thou weighest the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance; thou mettest out the waters in the hollow of thy hand; thou takest up the isles as a very little thing. What then are we in thy sight! What is frail and short-lived man, who is formed of the dust and quickly returneth to dust again!

Yet, O God, even we are the objects of thy care and love, and it becomes us at all times to worship Thee with the deepest reverence, and to obey Thee with the most devoted subjection. Thou watchest over us with more than a parent's tenderness, sup-

pliest all our wants with more than a parent's liberality. From the days of our infancy till the present moment, thy hand has conducted and sustained us, has saved us a thousand times from the consequences of our own folly and inexperience, and has often restrained us from those paths of vice, and ruin, into which our corrupted and misguided hearts, would have betrayed us. How shall we, O most merciful father sufficiently adore thy goodness, or worthily magnify thy holy name? Enlighten our minds and soften our hearts, that we may ascribe all this to thy tender parental care, and be led to render the glory to thee, which is most justly due. Forbid that we should ever be guilty of the ingratitude of subsisting on thy bounty, and yet live in forgetfulness of the hand that dispenses it; but rather may our life become one unceasing tribute of grateful adoration to thee, our merciful and heavenly Parent. But how infinitely hast thou multiplied our obligations by those blessings which we enjoy as disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ. We bless thee, that through him mercy is proclaimed to the penitent, that divine assistance is promised to reclaim the erring, to sustain the weak, and to sanctify the unholy. We bless Thee for the pure doctrine which he taught, for the spotless example he set before us, for the atonement he made for the sins of a guilty world, and for the means of grace he hath instituted, whereby our souls may be trained to glory and virtue. O God, how great must our condemnation be, if, in the midst of so much light, we continue to walk in darkness. If, in defiance of all those powerful motives to holiness, we should yet choose death in the error of our ways; and, while

the free unmerited mercy of our God has opened to us the portals of a blessed immortality, we should go down to the regions of eternal death. O suffer us not, in the blindnes of our hearts, to make so ruinous a choice. Expose to us, in all its horrors, the path of ruin, that we may avoid it ; shew us the blessedness of the path that conducts to immortality that we may never depart from it. Enable us to discern the worthiest objects, and incline us unceasingly to pursue them ; and above all, may we be constrained by the amazing love of our blessed Redeemer to live no longer to ourselves, but unto him who died for us, and rose again. We confess, O Lord, that the present world holds too exclusive a possession of our thoughts and affections. Its pleasures, and accommodations, and distinctions, attract our desires more strongly than they ought to do, and withdraw our attention from spiritual and eternal concerns. Enable us more distinctly to believe, and to feel our uncertain connection with this passing scene, and our sure and intimate connection with the eternity that is at hand. May each closing and returning day deeply affect our hearts, with the flight of time, with the nearness of the hour of dissolution, with the awful solemnity of the judgment day, and the irreversible sentence of joy or sorrow which the impartial and just judge shall then pass upon each one of us. O, that these solemn considerations might arouse us from all indifference, and strip off those illusions in which this deceitful world invests itself. O, that we were taught to esteem as nothing, the fleeting and unsatisfactory possessions of the earth, and to seek earnestly after a more durable inheritance in the heavens. We bless thee, O Lord, that thou hast

again opened our eyes to behold the light of a new morning, that the beauties of creation are again disclosed, and that an opportunity is once more afforded us of uniting in the duties of devotion. Grant that every view of thy works may lead our thoughts to Thee. Forbid that man alone should remain an insensible unaffected spectator of the glories that are spread around him ; but may we admire the wisdom that contrived, the power that executed, and the goodness that is diffused throughout all thy works, that our souls may be as altars consecrated to thee, from which the incense of a rational devotion, the sacrifices of an ardent gratitude and holy obedience, shall perpetually ascend. Throughout this day let a devout sense of thy presence rest upon our minds, and may thy holy spirit direct our steps. Prepare us for the various duties, and events that may occur in its progress. May all our actions be done to thy glory. Give us each a portion of that benevolent spirit which guided the unparalleled goodness of our great master that we may be ready to do good according to our abilities unto all men. Preserve our minds unclouded by prejudice or passion, and our affections pure and heavenly. Smile on all our lawful undertakings. Crown our industry with success. Let our names be as precious ointment poured forth, and may all around see our good works, and glorify our Father who is in heaven. Convinced of, and humbled by, our own unworthiness, yet encouraged to put our trust in thy adorable goodness, we desire now to commit ourselves, and all who are dear to us, with cheerfulness and confidence, to thy protection and guidance. As we proceed in the journey of life, may

we advance in preparation for eternity ; that when the dawn of the eternal morning shall open on us, we may enjoy the fruition of all our present hopes, encompass thy throne and engage in the holier exercises of those blessed and redeemed spirits, who surround it. Hear, in heaven, thy holy habitation, these our humble prayers, and inspire us with faith in thy gracious promises, that our supplications shall be heard and accepted, through him whom thou hearest always—to whom, with Thee, the Father, and the blessed Spirit, be ascribed glory, dominion and praise, world without end, Amen.

II. EVENING PRAYER FOR A WEEK DAY.

Lord, our God, by whose parental guardianship we have this day been preserved from all danger and bountifully supplied with all comfort, bestow upon us, prostrate around this domestic altar, thy grace by which we may present our evening worship with reverence and godly fear. From Thee we have derived our being and all that renders it desirable—O that we may consecrate all that we have and are to the glory of the Giver. Thy sustaining arm every moment upholds us—O that every moment we may gratefully acknowledge its beneficent agency. To thy free, unmerited love we owe the gospel of reconciliation with all its hopes and privileges—O that we could sincerely embrace its gracious offers, and evermore glorify Thee in our bodies and in our spirits which are thine.

But, O Lord, we are painfully conscious of our natural tendency to fail in this the proper end of our being and to live not to Thee, but to ourselves.

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We too often use our powers, as if they were not thy gifts to be consecrated to thy service, and the bounties of thy providence, as if they did not constitute a fresh claim upon us to love and obey our heavenly benefactor. Counteract, O God, we beseech Thee, this sinful forgetfulness into which we are so apt to fall, & this feeble sense of accountability, which alas!—is too much our habitual character. Preserve within us a lively sense of our entire dependance upon Thee, and of thy entire property in us. We are indeed thy creatures ; we live in thy world ; we subsist on thy bounty ; we are daily refreshed by thy goodness ; our tranquillity and our profitable exercise of mind and heart, and the religious hopes that soothe and elevate us, all flow from thy unmerited and unceasing beneficence.

Forbid, heavenly Father, that any of the means and instruments which Thou usest in the distribution of thy bounty, should stand in the way of our grateful recognition of thy hand which fills and actuates and directs them all. In the various changes of material nature may we see thine omnipotent agency working for our good ; and when our fellow-men are employed in promoting this end may we still acknowledge thy providence which inclines them to be the ministers of thy pleasure ; and whether Thou conductest us through scenes of enjoyment or suffering, may we still be preserved by thy mercy, and continually feel the protection of thine arm, which is always stretched forth to succor the needy and destitute who put their confidence in Thee.

And sanctify our souls, we beseech Thee, for thine everlasting habitation. Quench within us

every impure desire ; subdue every unamiable temper ; remove every mean intention and unholy motive that nothing displeasing to Thee may defile the spiritual temple in which thou hast promised to take up thine abode. Give us grace to continue in the habit of reflection, of prayer, of filial dependence on thine all sufficiency. Enlighten our conscience, and endue it with tenderness and the just discernment of rectitude. Enlarge our understanding with a wide comprehension of truth. Fill us with a high admiration of moral goodness as expressed in thy law, and embodied in the perfect example of our Lord and master ; and may we so revolve the histories of those in whom divine grace hath been most conspicuously manifested that, by a closer imitation, we may be followers of them, who through faith and patience are now inheriting the promises.

May the close of the day to which we are again brought admonish us to prosecute with greater earnestness the designs of a holy and useful life. We trust we are filled with a godly sorrow when we review so many of our past days unimproved, or what is worse, spent in folly and sin. We penitently confess, O Lord, that the present world, in the urgency of its cares and business, has too much excluded our concern about the world to come. Rescue us, we beseech Thee, from its delusions : set us free from its mean and unholy servitude. Discover more impressively to us the true nature of our present condition, and of that on which we must ere long enter that the deceitful charms that attract us to earth may be dissolved, and our affections transferred to an unsading inheritance in the heavens.

May we never lose sight of that state of being into which all former generations have passed and whether we shall shortly be summoned : and while we are solemnly moved by the awful doom of the impenitent and unbelieving rejectors of thy mercy, may we be encouraged to faith and perseverance by the recompence of reward which infinite mercy shall bestow on all who have overcome the world. Nor would we ever forget the departed whose memories are dear to us, and who beckon us to a place in that blessed society to which they are now united. Wherefore, seeing we are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith.

Forgive us, O Lord, wherein during the day that is passed we have sinned against Thee. We feel that we are too prone to plunge into the business of the world as if that were our chief concern, and to lose sight of our calling as the heirs of glory, and immortality. How often have we thus chilled the ardour of our devotion, quenched the aspirations of our hope, and retarded our progress in the spiritual life. But, O most merciful Father, what can we thine erring children do but return to Thee in penitence and prayer, to be again restored to thy favor and to a proper sense of the value of everlasting things. Pardon our iniquities and hide thy face from our sins ; let thy spirit abide upon us : set us free from the entanglements of a present evil world, and raise our affections to their proper resting place on heavenly things.

Preserve us, O God of Jacob who slumberest not nor sleepest, during the silent watches of this night. Give us refreshing sleep and raise us in the morning in thy fear. Now unto the King eternal, immortal, and invisible, the only wise God be glory everlasting. Amen.

III. MORNING PRAYER FOR A WEEK DAY.

O Lord, Thou art very great : Thou art clothed with honor and majesty, dwelling in the light that is inaccessible and full of glory whom no man hath seen, nor can see. Independent of every being, all being is dependent on Thee. Thy power, which no creature can limit, created the universe ; thy wisdom, which no intelligence can fathom, contrived its wonderful and harmonious arrangements ; thy beneficence, which so far exceeds our highest thoughts, diffuses its large and inexhaustible bounty over all that lives.

With prostrate and lowly hearts, we this morning adore and worship Thee, O Lord our God. How great thy condescension in regarding such worshipers as we are ! We, the children of the dust, occupy an humble place among the intelligent orders who encircle the eternal throne, and not only is our station humble, but our natures are now very far gone from their original rectitude. We have not revered thine authority, we have not obeyed thy law; and such now is the power of iniquity over us, that even our desire to be conformed to thy will is but weak and inconstant. Yet thou regardest the work of thy hands with compassion, and art not willing that we should perish. Heavenly Father, we draw

nigh unto the throne of thy grace not because we are in any wise worthy even of the least of thy mercies, but because for the sake of thy well-beloved Son whom Thou hast sent to redeem us from sin and misery, Thou hast promised to the sincere and penitent suppliant the greatest. We will extol Thee, O God our King ; we will bless thy name for ever. Every day will we bless Thee, and we will praise thy name for ever and ever. We will speak of the glory of thy kingdom and talk of thy power. For Thou art nigh to all them that call upon Thee, to fulfil the desire of them that fear Thee, to hear their cry and to save them.

About once more to enter upon the duties of the day, fill us, we humbly beseech Thee, with self-distrust, with holy fear, and with reliance on thy sustaining grace. In all our intercourse this day with our fellow-men, may we walk circumspectly. Dwelling amidst a community of sinful and imperfect beings where offences must needs arise, may we be careful not to give offence, may we be patient, gentle, easy to be entreated, ready to forgive, and even to render good for evil. Deliver us from every blameable motive and sentiment; lead us in the path of simplicity and godly sincerity and protect us from the cunning craftiness of men who lie in wait to deceive. In our worldly business may we be diligent, faithful and upright; firm in our resistance to evil, decided in our choice of all that is excellent and praiseworthy. Forbid, O God, that our secular engagements should disqualify us for our spiritual exercises ; and if at any time this day, in necessary application to our lawful calling, we should be so much taken up with present objects as

to lose sight of Thee, O let thine invisible hand be upon us for good, and when we are set free from the urgencies of secular care may our souls return to their proper rest in Thee. Enable us to walk by faith even amidst the ordinary avocations of life in which we are too prone to walk by sight. Preserve us from the spirit of the world, from the filthy conversation of the wicked, from the seductions of ungodly company, and from the baneful influence of error and passion. Deliver us from the restless and insatiable desire of unnecessary things. May we be clothed with humility and filled with contentment. Inspire us with such a filial confidence in thy paternal guardianship as shall prevent us from disquieting ourselves in vain about temporal things; and render the exercises of faith and meditation the habit and joy of our life. Make thy grace triumphant in purifying our whole nature, and in elevating our desires and hopes to the regions of immortal existence.

Heavenly Father, let the choicest blessings of thy grace descend on all the members of this household. May we all rightly understand and savingly embrace the truth as it is in Jesus. Divine physician heal the maladies of our souls; rectify all their disorders; and so sustain us by thy grace that we may continually advance to the perfection of our nature, by growing in our resemblance to thine. May the religious discipline of this family be happily maintained by thy servants who are placed at the head of it. May all under this domestic roof conscientiously submit to its pious order. United in love may we each study mutual edification, and by bearing each others burdens fulfil the law

of Christ. Let thy protecting care be over us this day while we are each engaged in our respective duties, and in thy mercy bring us together again around the domestic altar in the evening, that thy statutes may be our songs in the house of our pilgrimage. The Lord bless us, and keep us: the Lord make his face shine upon us, and be gracious unto us: the Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. Amen.

III. EVENING PRAYER FOR A WEEK DAY.

Heavenly Father, reminded once more by this season of returning rest of the worship and homage that is due unto thy name, we, thy children, reverently prostrate ourselves before thy mercy seat to worship and adore Thee, to be forgiven, and to be blessed by Thee. How delightful here to acknowledge the bounties of thy providence, and the unsearchable riches of thy grace in Christ our Lord and Redeemer! Oh that our hearts might overflow with gratitude and love, on every review of thine infinite beneficence, which has provided not only for the temporal wants of our frail bodies, but also for the wants and necessities of our immortal nature.

What can we render unto thee, O Lord, for all thy benefits to us? Our all is thine—our capacities, and all the means of enjoyment provided for them, our powers, and the grace whereby we are able to devote them to Thee. Our goodness, therefore, cannot extend unto Thee, since we possess nothing that we have not received from thy free bounty; and we cannot render unto Thee anything that is not thine own. But though thou art entirely inde-

pendent of all thy creatures, and supremely happy in thine own all-sufficient perfections, and we cannot profit Thee by our service, it is nevertheless, our duty to serve Thee with our whole soul, and mind, and strength. For what service may be compared in honour with thine, and what employment more delightful than the contemplation of thy glory, and the celebration of thy praise.

From Thee, the celestial worshippers derive unmixed felicity ; and we know that our felicity shall be consummated as we resemble them in character and employment. Endue us, therefore, with thy Heavenly grace, that our souls may be spiritualized, that we may behold thy glory as it is reflected from thy works, and as it beams still more resplendently forth in the face of Jesus Christ ; that homage, and love to Thee may be a tribute ever flowing from our hearts, rendered unto Thee, without fear all the days of our life.

Humbly and penitently do we confess, O Lord, that our regards are apt to be drawn away from Thee, by the engrossing pursuits of this transitory world. The things that are seen intercept our view of things unseen ; and the clouds of dust arising from the path of the pilgrim obscure the vision of the heavenly Jerusalem. Father of spirits, we approach Thee in our hour of weakness, beseeching Thee to have compassion on us, and to raise us above all that is mean and sinful in the pursuit of temporal things ; and endue us with that elevated and sanctified temper which looks on time in the light of immortality, and regards all its honour and convenience as the comforts of an inn, where, as wayfaring men, we tarry only for a night. Teach us

so to estimate the things of this present world, that we may be induced continually to raise our desires to that invisible state, where we shall attain the beatitude and perfection of our being in the presence of thy glory. And since at thy tribunal we must appear to give an account of the deeds done in the body, may the coming judgment ever be present to our reflections in all its dread solemnity and eternal consequences. O terrible day, on which the unchangeable destiny of myriads of immortal beings shall be determined, and their condition fixed in endless woe, or endless felicity, with capacities the full extent of which we cannot now conceive ! Eternal Spirit, promised to convince the world of sin, of righteousness, and of judgment, lead us to a just apprehension of these dread realities, and keep alive within us suitable sentiments. As sin is the abominable thing which thou hatest, may we also hate it with a perfect hatred ; as thou delightest in righteousness, endue us with a just discernment of its nature, and clothe us with the righteousness which is of Christ by faith. As judgment is before us, and how near at hand we know not, may it be our chief concern to prepare for it, watching thereunto with all prayer and supplication, that the sound of the archangel's trumpet may not overwhelm us with dismay. How fearful the dismay of the unbelieving and ungodly ! With what piteous and unavailing cries will they call upon the mountains and the rocks to cover them, and hide them from the face of him that sitteth on the throne ! We will flee to thee now, O blessed Jesus, that we may not fear to meet Thee at thy coming. We will trust in thy cross, that we may not despair at thy

tribunal. We will embrace,—O give us faith so to do, the offers of thy mercy, that we may not perish in the perdition of ungodly men. May we now, through the power of thy spirit, be created after thine image, that we may be admitted to a place in thine everlasting kingdom, among the immortal trophies of thy grace and power. Heavenly Father, be graciously pleased to accept our feeble attempts to serve Thee this day, in discharging the various duties allotted to us in thy providence. Prosper our temporal concerns, and teach us to guide all our affairs with discretion. May we rule our families in thy fear. Keep in the hollow of thy hand all who are dear to us, by whatever tie. Raise our friends to the enjoyment of thy friendship, that the bonds of grace may render our connection immortal, after death has separated us from the present world. Regard thy afflicted children during their night of weeping, and let joy arise on them, in the morning. Lead us onward to those pure and unclouded regions, where the inhabitants shall no more say I am sick ; where pain does not afflict, nor death bereave ; where the Lord shall be our everlasting light, and the days of our mourning shall be ended. In hope of this glorious consummation, we this night commit ourselves to the arms of thine everlasting love, beseeching Thee to dispose of all that pertains to us in time as may seem best to thine infinite wisdom, and to raise us at last to the happy state of those, who are redeemed by thy grace, and made heirs of eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord. * * *

IV. FOR SATURDAY EVENING.

Father of mercies and God of all consolation, we return Thee our humble thanks for bringing us to the close of another week in peace and safety, and for blessing us during its passage with so many comforts. Night after night refreshing sleep has embraced us: day after day the richest bounties of thy providence have descended upon us: pain has but slightly impeded the current of our enjoyment, and no distressing event has befallen those who are dear to us. O Lord, what shall we render unto Thee for all thy benefits to us—benefits so far exceeding all our deserts.

Once more, and in prospect of the coming Sabbath, would we express our heartfelt gratitude for the ample provision which Thou has made for our spiritual wants and immortal nature. And now, that the claims of the world have been conceded for six days, let us through thy spirit be prepared for consecrating to Thee that portion of time which Thou hast set apart for thy more sacred and immediate service. Give us grace to withdraw our thoughts and affections from the world during this gracious respite from its more urgent servitude, which through thy mercy we have so long been permitted peacefully to enjoy. Prevent its distractions from intruding on the hours of the coming day which are exclusively thine. Bless us, we fervently entreat Thee, with such impressive views of thine infinite majesty, of the cross of Christ and of eternal realities, as shall counteract the influence of time and the world. May we each know more fully the blessedness of fellow-

ship with the Father and with the Son, that with unfeigned lips we may be able to declare--"one thing have I desired of the Lord that will I seek after, that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in his temple. For in the time of trouble, he will hide me in his pavilion, in the secret of his tabernacle will he hide me ; he shall set me up upon a rock."

And grant, most merciful Father, that the church universal may experience thy sabbaths to be a delight, holy unto the Lord and honourable—for of Zion Thou hast said, the Lord hath chosen it and desired it for an habitation. Infinite condescension ! —that the Lord Jehovah should so regard a community of sinful and imperfect creatures, as to say of them, "I am married to you," and thus to stand in a relation which unchangeable love cannot permit to be dissevered. Thy faithfulness is pledged not only to preserve thy church but to present it as a chaste virgin unto Christ : but, alas, in its present state of intermixture, how sad her backslidings, how numerous her defections ! How far have large branches of the christian family departed from the right way ! How largely hath the spirit of the world crept into the sanctuary and defaced its divine inscription—*holiness to the Lord* ! —and how often has an angry and contentious spirit, and the noise of unholy rivalships drowned the voice of peace and brotherly kindness within the gates of Zion ! Yet, O Lord, long-suffering and slow to anger, Thou hast not cast off thy people in the midst of these sad provocations. We hear thy voice of mercy above the strife of tongues, saying, "return thou

backsiding Israel, and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you ; for I am merciful and I will not keep anger for ever." Return, therefore, O Lord, and visit thine heritage ; thy vineyard which thine own right hand hath planted ; water it abundantly that her trees may be trees of righteousness—the planting of the Lord that he may be glorified.

And, O Thou divine Head of the church of whom the whole family in heaven and earth are named, unite us really as well as visibly to the mystical body of Christ—the church, and inspire us with a true community of feeling and interest with all its members. Partakers of the same hope and fellowship of the spirit may our mutual prayers and intercessions ascend before Thee with acceptance. Be in all the assemblies of thy saints ; make thyself known in the dispensation of thine ordinances, and let thy name every where be exalted. Prepare the ambassadors of Christ for their work, and give them success in persuading men to be reconciled unto God. May the backsiding be reclaimed, the wavering confirmed, the doubting resolved, the mourning comforted, and all thy saints established in their most holy faith. We rejoice that thy purposes of mercy shall be accomplished. Preserve this faith strong and unwavering amidst all the darkness that may now rest on our dim and limited vision. * * *

BRIEF SECRET EJACULATIONS TO BE
USED THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

FIRST SERIES.

On first awakening in the Morning.

Author of my being, strength of my life and length of my days, by whose sustaining power and great mercy, I am once more awakened to the full exercise of all my faculties and am called anew to testify my regard and submission to Thee, in many important duties; endue me richly with thy grace that I may this day be guided by an enlightened understanding and sanctified dispositions, walking before Thee in all well pleasing, being fruitful in every good work and abounding in the knowledge of God. In all the events which this day may bring, make thy grace sufficient for me and thy strength perfect in my weakness, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

Thanksgiving at Breakfast.

Our Father which art in heaven, with an unfailing liberality Thou suppliest our daily bread: in the enjoyment of the bounties may I cherish a habitual and grateful remembrance of the giver: and may the life sustained by thy power, and so abundantly comforted by thy goodness, be spent in thy service, and closed in thy favor, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen,

BE

Thanksgiving at Dinner.

Almighty Lord, I devoutly acknowledge my dependence upon Thee for life and breath and all things, and would now express my gratitude for the temporal comforts with which my table is again covered : to thine unmerited benignity I am indebted for all : may the continual stream of thy bounty keep my Benefactor in my perpetual remembrance; and may I find in Thee my everlasting portion and joy, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Supper.

Blessed God, I thank Thee for this renewed supply of the bread that perisheth, fitted for a time to sustain and refresh my mortal body ; in thy mercy bestow on me that bread which endureth unto everlasting life, that my soul may never see death, but live continually before Thee in thy heavenly kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

On lying down to sleep.

O Lord, God, preserve continually in my soul an awful and solemn apprehension of death, judgment, and eternity, that I may habitually contemplate the present life, and my conduct in it, in the light of these coming and dread realities : at the close of every day may I endeavor to judge myself as in the last day I shall be judged by Thee : enlighten and guide my conscience in this daily examination : trembling under the conviction of sin may I hum-

bly sue for mercy : unfeignedly may I repent of the sins which I have committed, and may the hopes of forgiveness through a crucified Redeemer which I humbly cherish, incite me on the morrow to more watchful circumspection, and prevent my repeated disobedience from again provoking thy displeasure, and reviving my fearful apprehensions. Let thy protecting care this night overshadow me, for the sake of Christ Jesus our Redeemer, Amen.

SECOND SERIES.

On first awakening in the Morning.

Father of lights, give a sanctifying efficacy to the themes which shall this day employ my meditations. Speak to my soul by the works of thy creating power, by the events of life, and by thine inspired oracles. Endue me with the faith which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Send thy holy spirit to illuminate and guide me. Prevent me from occupying my time and attention in mean and unprofitable pursuits. When so many things of momentous importance are to be done let not my precious moments be wasted upon trifles. Help me to labor for immortality —to aim at the improvement of my nobler part—and at the end of my course may it appear that I have not laboured in vain. Throughout this day may I do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with God, through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Breakfast.

O Lord our God, the dispenser of all good, bless these bounties of thy providence which I am now invited to partake: gratefully received may they be moderately enjoyed: and let my soul be nourished by thy grace unto eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Dinner.

Most bountiful Creator, thy providence watches over all, thy liberality blesses all: dispose me now to receive with gratitude and moderation these thy gifts, and hungering and thirsting after righteousness, may I find it a satisfying portion through Jesus Christ, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Supper.

Heavenly Father, bless me in the use of this food, necessary for the sustenance of my frail body, and give me to feast on that spiritual manna which satisfies the soul for ever, Amen.

On lying down to sleep.

As this day hath come to a close, so life itself is hastening to a close and the night is approaching in which no man can work. Lead me to impressive views of the solemnities of the coming judgment that I may be guided to impartial self-examination and assiduous preparation to meet God. May the

review of my sinfulness awaken penitence; may my numerous short comings fill me with humility, & the remembrance of past failures lead me to greater circumspection: distrusting myself more, may I confide more in Thee: raise me to a greater indifference to the things of time by a juster discernment of their insignificance as compared with the glory to be revealed. Preserve me from all disquietude on their account: may I cast all my care upon Thee, who careth for me. Into thy hands I now commend my spirit, and with humble faith in the Redeemer I look for mercy and ascribe glory and honor and power, unto Him that sitteth on the throne and to the Lamb for ever. Halleluia, Amen.

THIRD SERIES.

On first awakening in the Morning.

Eternal God, fountain of all being, intelligence and felicity, whose unslumbering eye hath guarded me during the unconscious hours of sleep, and by whose power I am once more awakened to the duties and enjoyments of a new day, mercifully preserve me during its progress from all evil, and assist me to improve its fleeting and irrecoverable moments, to my own spiritual advantage and the benefit of my fellow creatures. May the painful remembrance of time misapplied quicken my diligence in the right use of that uncertain portion which may yet remain to me, that the grand purposes of this mortal life, as introductory to the life immortal, may be secured. Enlighten my understanding, endue my soul with spiritual sensibility, bes-

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Amen.

tow on me a true repentance, and the faith that justifies the ungodly. May it be my constant desire to attain every virtuous and amiable quality. Render my affections and manners pure. Let faith encompass me as a shield, and righteousness arm me as a breastplate. Let the law of kindness dwell upon my tongue. Let meekness, moderation and charity appear in my whole deportment—to the praise of the glory of thy grace in Christ Jesus, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Breakfast.

Dispose me, most Gracious God, to acknowledge with devout gratitude thy hand in the liberal provision made for all my temporal necessities, and whether I eat or drink, or whatsoever I do, may I do all to the glory of God and in the name of Christ Jesus our Lord, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Dinner.

Most gracious God, whose tender mercies are over all thy works, who dost not withhold thy goodness even from the evil and unthankful, grant that I may always receive the blessings of thy providence, with a grateful spirit, and evermore study to glorify thy name by a holy life, trusting in thy mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thanksgiving at Supper.

God of all grace and consolation, may I acknowledge thy bountiful hand in all my comforts, and

evermore love and serve Thee, with my whole soul and mind and strength, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

On lying down to sleep.

O that at this period of solemn review which the close of every day brings, I had a more lively impression of the uncertain and transitory nature of this mortal life! My fleeting moments are ever on the wing : every breath I draw, every throb of my pulse, indicates the lapse of my allotted hours, and hastens on the silence and repose of the grave. The power of the destroyer is seen every where : the generation to which I belong is disappearing around me like autumn leaves, and quivering in my place I shall soon be numbered in the dust with the fallen. Living in continual remembrance that I am born to die, may the solemnities of death and the dread realities beyond it, keep me free from the entangling snares of the world, and lead me to embark in its pursuits, as one that must shortly withdraw from them ; while in every matter connected with my spiritual improvement may I feel a deep and increasing concern. Time speeds away, but the deeds done in time are imperishable in their consequences and affect the soul's destiny for ever. Preserve me, therefore, in a habitual and holy vigilance, that I may never do aught the effects of which may prove injurious to me in the future course of my being. I commit to thy keeping, Blessed Jesus, that immortal part for which thou gavest thy life a ransom. This night may I rest safely under the shadow of thy everlasting wings.

FOURTH SERIES.

On first awakening in the Morning.

Blessed Jesus, the bright and the morning star, by whose intercession I am again raised from sleep, the image of death, and mine eyes behold the wonders of creation,—now enrich my soul out of that fulness which is treasured up in Thee: may the holy spirit, the comforter, abide with me and lead me to the right interpretation of thy works, thy ways, and thy word: in them may I behold thy reflected image and never cease to contemplate and adore. Let my soul breathe a supreme love to Thee, unsullied by creature affection, manifesting itself in a holy obedience, and drawing from thy service its purest enjoyment. Amidst the dim light of this sinful and imperfect state, may I walk humbly with Thee, until the veil of mortality being withdrawn, I behold thy glory without a cloud and be satisfied when I awake after thy likeness. In thee my creator, redeemer and Lord, I humbly trust, waiting in hope for thy second coming to receive into the mansions of bliss all thy faithful servants: even so come Lord Jesus, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Breakfast.

Father of mercies, whose gracious providence sustains the innumerable tribes dependent on thy bounty, render me duly thankful for the temporal comforts now laid before me, for health of body and tranquility of mind, and may thy blessing now

sanctify to my use these temporal refreshments, in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Dinner.

Accept of my thanks, O Lord, for the various capacities with which Thou hast endued my nature and for the ample means of gratification daily provided for me: entirely dependant as I am on thy free and unmerited bounty for all things, may I never fail to acknowledge it in an universal and affectionate obedience, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

Thanksgiving at Supper.

O Lord, our covenant keeping God, we thank Thee for all our social comforts. In our fellowship one with another may we never forget our destination to immortal life, nor fail in rendering mutual aid in preparing for it, that when our present relationships are dissolved we may be united in perfect and everlasting bliss through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

On lying down to sleep.

Keeper of Israel, who neither slumberest nor sleepest, to whom the darkness and the light are both alike—who hath given to man the day for activity, the night for repose—give me also grace to spend my days in obedience to thy holy commandments, that in the review, an enlightened conscience may approve, and the peace of God may dwell in

my breast ere I commit myself to sleep. Help me to keep in lively remembrance the night of death and the morning of the resurrection, that I may be led diligently to prepare for them. O Thou who didst translate Enoch without tasting death to enjoy uninterrupted blessedness in thine immediate presence in the heavens, deliver me from the snares and temptations of an evil world, and in thine own time admit me to a place among the spirits of the just made perfect:—O Thou who didst preserve Noah when the fountains of the great deep were broken up, receive me into Christ—my ark and refuge, and when thy judgments are overpast, may I appear among the living in the new Jerusalem:—O Thou who didst guide thy people in a pillar of cloud by day and in a pillar of fire by night, vouchsafe me thy guidance in all the days of my pilgrimage on earth, and bring me at length to the rest that remaineth for the people of God.

DEVOTIONAL REFLECTIONS ON SELECT PASSAGES OF SCRIPTURE.

1. *Lord, teach us to pray: Luke 11, 1.*

Prayer is the simplest form of speech
That infant lips can try ;
Prayer the sublimest strains that reach,
The Majesty on high.

Prayer is the Christian's vital breath,
The Christian's native air ;
His watchword at the gates of death,
He enters heaven with prayer.

O Thou, by whom we come to God,
The Life, the Truth, the Way !
The path of prayer thyself hast trod :
Lord teach us how to pray.

Heavenly Father, we are nothing without Thee, nor can we know, love and glorify thy name unless thy grace be vouchsafed to enlighten and sustain us. For so great is our unbelief and ignorance of spiritual things that we know not what we should pray for as we ought, and oftentimes we ask amiss. But we thank Thee, that in the days of his flesh, our blessed Redeemer in merciful condescension to the infirmities of his disciples did graciously teach them to pray, and through his intercession, thy holy spirit is promised to help our infirmities, that we may know to make intercession according to the will of God. Hearer of prayer, bestow on

us, we beseech Thee, the spirit of grace and supplication, that we may evermore desire what Thou hast promised, and repose without wavering on thy faithfulness, knowing that Thou art able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we can ask or think according to the power that worketh in us. In the habitual frame of our souls may we reverently acknowledge our dependance upon Thee and continually express it in fervent prayer, in grateful praise, and in the joyful expectation of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen.

2. *The eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to shew himself strong in the behalf of them, whose heart is perfect towards him.*

2 Chron. 16, 9.

God is our refuge, tried and proved,
Amid a stormy world;
We will not fear though earth be moved
And hills in ocean hurled.

The waves may roar, the mountains shake,
Our comforts shall not cease,
The Lord his saints will not forsake:
The Lord will give us peace.

Almighty Lord, whose sceptre ruleth over all worlds, we put our trust in Thee. Possessed of all wisdom to discern, of all goodness to actuate, of all power to succor, we flee unto Thee as our refuge and pavilion amidst the griefs and perils of this sinful life. Inspire us with that entire and confiding submission which we owe Thee, whose we are and in whose hands are all our ways;—a submission

which our divine master so perfectly exemplified during the whole of his sojourn upon earth, and especially in the hour of his mysterious passion. All the elements of nature are under thy controul, and the angels that excel in strength are thy messengers. The designs and acts of every human being are known to Thee, and no matter to what their passions lead them, they contribute their part to whatsoever Thou hast ordained. Why, then, should we faint in adversity or despond in the day of darkness ? For the Lord will command his loving kindness in the day time, and in the night his song shall be with me, and my prayer unto the Lord of my life.

3. Redeeming the time : Eph. 5, 15.

Think, O my soul ! how much depends
On the short period of a day ;
Shall time, which heaven in mercy lends,
Be negligently thrown away ?

Lord of my life, teach me the skill
Each precious moment to improve ;
And while my days are shortening still,
Prepare me for the joys above !

Eternal God, with whom are the issues of life, Thou measurest it out to us in successive moments, and when it seemeth good unto Thee it ceaseth. This period of our being is the spring-time of eternity: should it be misimproved and spent in sin, nothing remains to us but a fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation. Alas, how much of this precious gift have we already lost ! how many

months and years have been wasted in idleness, or abused in feeding the natural worldliness of the heart! Almighty God, the just, the righteous, it is because Thou art very pitiful and slow to anger that our time and the benefits connected with it have not ceased, & the endless ages of an unblissed immortality have not come upon us! Our days are prolonged in this preparatory world, the mediator intercedes in our behalf, thine ear is still attent to our prayers, mercy yet extends its sceptre to us, and the gates of heaven are open for our admission!—By the painful remembrance of wasted time and lost opportunities, may we be led to a better improvement of such time and opportunity as in thy great mercy may hereafter be bestowed on us. Prevent us from being led away into sinful pursuits or detained with unprofitable employments. With immortal life in view may we here be devoted to the culture of the spiritual life. And as the feelings and actions of every hour are engraven on a nature from which the inscription does not fade,—as the occupations and fellowship of the scenes around us are affecting the formation of a character which shall hereafter be immutable, doomed to the miseries of the lost or raised to the felicities of the upper world,—Oh that consequences so durable and momentous, may awaken our solicitude, incite our activity, sustain our diligence, and fill us with a holy dread in the use of those means and ordinances in which preparation is made for eternity. Blessed God, who measurest out our allotted span upon earth, enlighten, uphold and sanctify us by thy grace, that when we have finished our course we may be received into everlasting habitations.

4. *I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.*
Isaiah 48, 10.

Oh thou whose mercy guides my way,
 Though now it seems severe,
 Forbid my unbelief to say,
 There is no mercy here !

Oh grant me to desire the pain
 That comes in kindness down,
 More than the world's supremest gain
 Succeeded by a frown.

Then tho' thou bend my spirit low,
 Love only shall I see :
 The very hand that strikes the blow,
 Was wounded once for me.

As our Father, reconciled to us through Jesus Christ, all thy dispensations are marked with paternal regard. Enlighten us and bring our will into conformity with thine, that we may no more murmur at what Thou art pleased to appoint, even though it be very contrary to our natural wishes. Guilty have we been, very guilty in repining under thy chastisements. Our gourds under which we enjoyed a pleasant shelter have been withered by a worm from Thee and in the vexation of our spirit we have said, I do well to be angry. But, O God, fountain of all wisdom, are not thy purposes wise ? God of love, dost Thou not pity us, even as a Father pitieith his children, and hast Thou not declared Thou dost not afflict willingly, nor grieve the children of men ? Endue us with a more becoming spirit that under every sorrow and bereavement we may say in submission, It is the Lord, let him do

what seemeth him good ;—the Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, Blessed be the name of the Lord. Oh grant that every trial may moderate our pursuit of temporal things, quicken our diligence in our christian course, wean our affections from the world, and advance our preparation for eternity. Let every painful event more deeply convince us that this is not our rest, that we are only pilgrims in a world on which the curse is resting ; and may we continue to look forward in serenity and hope to that hour when at the command of our merciful Redeemer we shall rise from the sins and sorrows of time to the holiness and joy of the upper world.

5. — *But some are fallen asleep : 1 Cor. 15. 6.*

There is a world above,
 Where parting is unknown,
 A long eternity of love,
 Formed for the good alone :
 And faith beholds the dying here
 Translated to that glorious sphere !

Thus star by star declines,
 Till all are past away ;
 As morning high and higher shines
 To pure and perfect day :
 Nor sink those stars in empty night,
 But hide themselves in heaven's own light.

How many are sleeping the sleep of death of those
 who were once embraced in the circle of our fellow-
 ship—our friends and brethren are in quick suc-
 cession dropping to rest in the silent grave! How dark
 and gloomy are such events to the eye of unbelief,
 though not to ours! Praise for ever be ascribed to thy

great and glorious name for the blessed hope of immortality to which we are begotten, through which the gloom that overhangs the valley of the shadow of death is dispelled. Nor can we review the death-bed scenes that we have witnessed without rendering unto Thee our humble thanks for the testimony borne by departed saints to the power of faith in taking away the sting of death and the terror of the grave ; and for the assurance with which we are inspired that they have exchanged a world of sin and sorrow for a world of purity and bliss. Halleluia ;—blessing and glory and victory be unto the Lord God of our salvation for the innumerable trophies which divine grace hath won and placed around the throne on high in everlasting security and beatitude. Once the children of wrath—now the children of God ; once the slaves of sin—now redeemed and made partakers of a divine nature ; once exposed to toil and temptation, to suffering and death—now delivered from all evil and blessed with all good. We, yet sojourning in this vale of tears, the humble expectants of the same felicity, beseech Thee evermore to keep us in thy holy governance, to which with humble trust in thy great mercy we commit ourselves and all who fear thy name, looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the Great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.

6. *Let not sin reign in your mortal body, Rom. 6, 12.*

The dearest idol I have known,
Whate'er that idol be,
Help me to tear it from thy throne,
And worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
 Calm and serene my frame :
 So purer light shall mark the road
 That leads me to the Lamb.

Keep us under thy holy governance, O God, that we may habitually mortify the deeds of the body, and rise to the dignity of a spiritual life—a life regulated by thy law, exalted by faith, and always breathing a celestial purity. Teach us moderation and incline us to self-denial in the use of all sensible things, remembering how apt they are to deceive, to enslave, and to debase, by making our members the instruments of unrighteousness and turning us aside from the true ends and proper felicity of our being. Walking humbly before God, fervently desirous of entire conformity to the divine will, looking for the blessed hope and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ may we deny ourselves to all ungodliness & worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously and godly in the present world. Prevent sinful habits, at present suppressed, from ever again rising to the mastery: dissipate the erring fancies which in time past may have invested the pleasures of sense with deceitful and ensnaring attractions; awaken within us just conceptions of the proper good of an immortal nature; and may we ever seek it in the cross of Christ, in the sanctification of the soul, and in the consecration of every faculty and possession to the glory of God.

7. *God, is a spirit, and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4, 24.*

We hear thy voice when thunders roll
 Through the wide fields of air ;
 The waves obey thy dread controul,
 Yet still thou art not there.
 Where shall I find him, O my soul,
 Who yet is every where ?

Oh, not in circling depth or height,
 But in the conscious breast,
 Present to faith, though veiled from sight,
 There does his spirit rest.
 Oh come, thou Presence Infinite !
 And make thy creature blest.

Thou fillest immensity,—all space is thy temple,—the heavens are peopled with thy worshippers,—the humblest, equally with the most exalted, stands in the light of thy countenance,—and of each of us, who would take our place among the adoring assemblage that encircles thy throne, every thought and feeling is perfectly known to Thee. Of what avail then can it be, nay how sinful and dangerous, to come before Thee without a reverential sense of thy presence,—to offer the homage of the lip, enlightened by no intelligence and burning with no love. Oh that we could in all our approaches unto Thee realize thine awful presence and inspection ;—that we could under a holy consciousness of thy scrutiny search into our own hearts—abhor their defilement—be humbled under a contrite sense of guilt—and fall down in afflicted abasement before thine offended majesty ! We are deeply conscious

that these sentiments will never arise in the soul until thy grace stir them up ;—that spiritual ignorance and death will reign until Thou makest the day-spring from on high to visit and quicken us to newness of life :—we cannot take one step in motion towards Thee until Thou beckonest, nor draw near to thee until Thou drawest near to us ; we cannot lay hold on thy sceptre until Thou restorest the withered arm : we cannot walk in fellowship with Thee until Thou graciously condescendest to reveal thyself to our inmost spirit. Merciful Father, reveal to us thy glory ; purify our souls that we may be blessed in its vision : under a happy sense of our reconciliation to Thee, through Christ, may we spend the days of our sojourning on earth in thy fear, and when death is swallowed up in victory, may we be admitted to thy more immediate presence, and be for ever satisfied when we awake after thy likeness.

8. *According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life or death. Phil. 1, 20.*

Grant me, Heavenly Lord ! to feel
In thy cause a servant's zeal :
More than all to self most near,
May I hold thine honour dear ;
Willing to forego my pride,
So my Lord be glorified.

In the conquests of thy might
May I loyally delight ;
In Thy ever spreading reign,
Triumph as my greatest gain :
Make me conscious by this sign,
Saviour, Sovereign, I am thine.

All the allotments of life come, O Lord, from Thee ; teach us meekly to submit to thy disposal, in the continual dependence of humble prayer, in the continual activity of faithful obedience. Give us neither poverty nor riches—feed us with food convenient for us. Let our cup of temporal blessing be richly mingled with grace that it may be sanctified in the using. And as all thy dispensations are arranged for our spiritual good, send chastisement with thy blessing, when chastisement shall be best for us, and mercifully vouchsafe thine help that in the depths we may glorify thy name. May tribulation work patience ; may the strife of tongues hasten us to the shelter of thy pavilion ; may the dissatisfactions of earth endear to us the hope of heaven ; may the provocation of the froward put us in remembrance of the frequency with which we have provoked Thee, that our penitence may nourish forbearance ; and if at any time our feeble endeavours for the benefit of others are ill-requited may we think of thy mistreated benignity—still unwearied in its outgoings upon the race who in their wickedness reject and abuse it. Above all may we set before us Him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, that inspired by the example of his patience and love we may not faint in the path of apparently unsuccessful labour. Ready for every good word and work may we zealously embrace every opportunity of performance. Prevent us from yielding at any time to timidity or indolence, and from retreating to the indulgence of a selfish seclusion. Animate us with holy boldness that we may ever be found in our proper place where the battle is raging against the empire of error and sin, and arrayed in

the armour of God, may we share both in the contest and in the victory ; and as time passes away faithfully improved may we become strengthened in all goodness, more useful to thy church, visibly more honoured of Thee, until having finished our course we obtain the crown, which the Lord Jesus shall give unto all them that love his appearing.

9. *Be not conformed to this world. Rom. 12, 2.*

Bright scenes of bliss, unclouded skies,
Invite my soul—O could I rise,
Nor leave a thought below !
I'd bid farewell to anxious care,
And say to every tempting snare,
Heaven calls, and I must go.

Heaven calls, and can I yet delay ?
Can ought on earth engage my stay ?
Ah ! wretched, lingering heart !
Come, Lord, with strength, and life, and light,
Assist and guide my upward flight,
And bid the world depart.

This evil world, O most blessed God, is at enmity with Thee and in rebellion against thy sovereign authority. To be conformed to it is, to be alienated from Thee in the spirit of our mind, to set aside thy law, to live in forgetfulness of the supreme good, to neglect the culture of the noblest powers of our nature, and to be hastening to thy tribunal without forecasting what shall be our doom there ! By nature we are of this world and fond of it ; corrupted and deceived we are continually led astray by its soul-destroying enchantments ; even after our eyes are o-

pened to behold its vanity and our hearts are made sensible of its emptiness and vexations, we yet continue to linger amidst its follies, and are unable to disentangle ourselves from its snares with which we are bound. Look upon us, Saviour of men, with compassion and leave us not in the grasp of this destroyer; arouse us from those deceitful slumbers that end in death; incline us to turn away with fixed aversion from whatever obscures the vision of heavenly things—from the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. This world is lying in wickedness—we would not be conformed to it; it is under the curse of thy displeasure—we fervently desire to be delivered from it; it is full of lawlessness, and strife and misery—redeem us from its captivity & confer on us a right of citizenship in that kingdom which consists in righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Ghost. When we behold thy glory with supreme love the world will lose its power over us; and transformed by the renewing of our minds, we shall prove the good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

10. *This is the day which the Lord hath made, we will rejoice and be glad in it. Ps. 118, 24.*

Glory to God who deigns to bless
 This consecrated day;
 Unfolds his wondrous promises,
 And makes it sweet to pray.

Glory to God, who deigns to hear
 The humblest sigh we raise,
 And answers every heartfelt prayer,
 And hears our hymn of praise.

With gratitude and joy we bless and praise thy name, O God, for the divine institution of the Sabbath and for the benefits which it conveys to the immortal nature of man. Coeval with the innocence of Eden it will be kept in hallowed remembrance by them that fear Thee, until the end of the world introduce the everlasting Sabbath of the heavenly paradise. May we ever be in the spirit on this holy day. May it be a season of sweet remembrances, of spiritual enjoyment and of exalted anticipations. The memorial of the work of creation, may we devoutly contemplate every manifestation of thine attributes displayed in it and feel that all nature is full of Thee: the memorial of thy supreme dominion both in its design and preservation, may we gratefully adore Thee that it has not been permitted to perish amidst the corruptions of the world but has been sanctified in every age by the remnant of thine heritage: now having become the memorial of redemption through our Lord Jesus Christ, preserve and establish it for ever; brighten its inscription that all men may know why thou hast ordained it; secure for it throughout the wide world a holy observance; hallowed in the way of thine appointment by prayer, and praise and doctrine, honor it still more by the conversion of sinners, by the improvement of the moral condition of man, by the amelioration of the manifold evils with which sinful humanity is afflicted, and by the brightening of the hope of that better destiny prepared for the ransomed of the Lord beyond the grave. God of the sabbath, without whose grace this day which thou hast made cannot become to us a season of spiritual communion and

holy rest, cause thy blessing to descend upon the mountain of thy holiness that the assembled multitudes who go up to praise Thee, may continually rejoice and be glad in it.

11. *Our life is hid with Christ in God : Col. 3, 3.*

Jesus, the gift divine I know :
 That gift divine I ask of thee,
 The living water now bestow,
 Thy spirit and thyself on me.
 Thou, Lord, of life the fountain art :
 Abide for ever in my heart.

Then let me drink, and thirst no more,
 For drops of finite happiness.
 Spring up, O well, in heavenly power,
 In streams of pure, perennial peace,
 In joy that none can take away,
 In life that never can decay.

Unite us, most gracious God, by a saving faith to Christ our Head, in whom is life and this life is the light of men. Though hidden from the observation of the world may it still encrease by brighter irradiations from its central Sun, until the living ones become meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. This spiritual life, invisible to man, cannot be hidden from thee, by whose spirit it has been awakened, nor can its evidences be altogether hidden from its possessor. We feel it in the new desires that turn away from the creature to the Creator, in the delightful contemplation of thy glory more especially as it beams forth in the person of Christ, in our longing to be delivered from sin and

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to be conformed to the divine will in all things, in that holy and tranquil frame to which we are sometimes raised, and in which we would continually abide; in the joy with which we anticipate the world to come where the powers of the spiritual life shall expand into perfection before the throne of God. Blessed Jesus, the fountain of this life, brighten in us these its evidences, strengthen within us these its sentiments. Created anew in thee, may the certain signs of this new creation be always multiplying, until with well-grounded assurance we can truly declare, "I live yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life that I live in the flesh is by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave himself for me."

12. There remaineth a rest to the people of God.
Heb. 4, 9.

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Thine earthly sabbaths Lord we love:—
A nobler rest remains above.
To that our fainting souls aspire
With ardent hope and strong desire.

No more fatigue, no more distress,
No guilt the conscience to oppress,
No sighs there mingle with the songs,
Resounding from immortal tongues.

Shepherd of Israel, conduct us safely to this rest, first by union with him who has promised to give rest even in the present world to the weary and heavy laden who believe in his name, and then by admission into that kingdom where He is that we may behold his glory. But since we cannot enter in, if

unbelief prevail, endue us with the faith which justifies the ungodly and gives victory over the world. May a lively feeling that we are but strangers upon the earth lead us to direct our course to the city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God. Let the anticipation of this holy sabbatism above soothe and sustain us amidst the toils and perils of the way through which we must pass to it: and if at any time we should be so deceived by the attractive scenes of our pilgrimage as to set our affections upon them and become forgetful of the heavenly country, strengthen our faith anew to discern the fading glories of all earthly things and the surpassing loveliness of the inheritance of the saints in light, that our affections may be again raised to their proper resting place in heaven. Especially may thine earthly sabbaths preserve in us the remembrance and the desire of the heavenly. May they be devoted to the contemplation of its blessedness, and to the obtaining of a title and preparation for entering upon it. Heavenly Father, refresh our weary spirit in this land of drought and of the shadow of death, with the water of life, that we may discharge present duty with greater faithfulness, submit to every privation with humble acquiescence, and long for the day of the Redeemer's advent, even more than they that watch for the morning. Blessed is the people who are in such a case: yea blessed are the people whose God is the Lord; for Thou conductest Israel like a flock; Thou leadest them to green pastures even in the wilderness; Thou protectest them from the wild beasts of the desert; and brought within the walls of the heavenly Jerusalem, it is said of them—These are they, &c.—Rev. 7, 14—17.

13. *Is Christ divided?* 1 Cor. 1, 13.

O King of Salem, Prince of Peace,
 Bid strife among thy subjects cease,
 One is our faith and one our Lord;
 One body, spirit, hope, reward;
 One God and Father of us all,
 On whom thy church and people call:
 Oh may we one communion be,
 One with each other, one with thee.

Awaken within thy church catholic lamentation, and mourning, on account of those contentions and schisms that have divided it, and have made it a scorn and by-word to the scoffer and profane. Lead all who bear the Christian name to cultivate the love of truth, unity, and concord, and to ask fervently the wisdom which is from above, which is pure, peaceable, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. Oh let the divine Head of the church be supremely exalted; let the holy scriptures be revered and implicitly submitted to as becometh their author; may all, especially the teachers and rulers in Israel, earnestly contend for the faith once delivered to the saints. Extinguish within the church the fires of an unholy rivalship, and the boasting in any name but in the name of Jesus. His is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory. May it be the fixed and enlightened determination of his people to know no other king, to acknowledge no other power, to glory in no other name.—O God, when shall it once be! Alas! to our eye the day seems far distant! But to thee it belongs to unite the warring elements and to restore the church on earth to the harmony of

heaven. Till then preserve us united in the fellowship of the gospel, in fervent love for the brotherhood, and in charity with the whole family of man. O God, are we not thy creatures, made of one flesh ? Are we not overspread with the same canopy, and nourished on the bosom of the same earth ? Doth not the same Saviour and Lord bend over us in compassion, and intercede that we may obtain the same salvation ? Are we not companions in the same tribulation, and partners in the same hope ? Counteract then, O God of peace, every cause of disunion ; heal the manifold divisions of thy church, that all who believe in thy word may be *one*, that the world may believe on Christ, the sent of God, the only mediator between God and man.

14. *God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able ; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.* 1 Cor. 10, 13.

Faithful, O Lord, thy mercies are
A rock that cannot move :
A thousand promises declare
Thy constancy of love.

Throughout the universe it reigns
Unalterably sure ;
And while the truth of God remains,
His goodness must endure.

How vast that condescension, how great that love,
which hath bound itself in covenant even to our
sinful race, to confer benefits of the most inestima-

ble value, that we who have fled for refuge to the hope set before us, might have the stronger consolation. 'Thy mercy, O Lord, shall be built up forever, thy faithfulness shalt thou establish in the very heavens. Lead us to a clear apprehension of this endearing attribute of thy nature, that we may put our trust in thy promises and pour out our hearts before Thee. Apt as we are to be disconcerted in seasons of trial, to be fearful and cast down in adversity, we pray thee to disclose to us more fully the glory of thy great name, that every fear may be dispelled, all anxiety hushed, that with filial confidence we may put our trust in thy perfect wisdom and boundless goodness. Thou callest us to confide in thee, may we never dishonor thy merciful condescension. Humbly relying on thy promises, may we draw from them strength and consolation, and wait in the patience of hope for that day, when the purchased redemption being complete, it shall be fully manifested, that of all which 'Thou hast spoken unto thy church, not one thing hath failed.'

15. *Give none offence, neither to the Jews, nor to the Gentiles, nor to the Church of God : 1 Cor. 10, 32.*

Give me a sober mind,
 A quick discerning eye,
 The first approach of sin to find,
 And all occasions fly.
 Still may I cleave to thee,
 And never more depart,
 But watch with godly jealousy
 Over my evil heart.

Endue us with a calm and enlightened temper, that we may judge aright in the circumstances in which we happen to be placed, and of the persons with whom we may have intercourse; and may we always be able to maintain our own integrity, and, by an affectionate and winning deportment to gain the esteem and confidence of others. In the testimony that we bear for truth, incline us to every charitable allowance for the ignorance and prejudices of mankind. In our vindication of purity may we regard with compassion those who have never known its way. May we study to remove all asperity from our address, all unkindness from our speech, and every thing from our demeanor inconsistent with the meekness and gentleness of Christ. Incline us to be tender and circumspect in all our conduct, to aim habitually at pleasing our brethren for their good to edification, to bear compassionately the infirmities of the weak, and with unwearied patience to endure the provocations of the froward. But while thus studying to give none offence, may we be careful not to compromise principle, nor connive at iniquity. We are thy witnesses before the church and the world—at all times may we bear a true and faithful testimony. Give us wisdom to contend earnestly for the faith, in our proper sphere, whoever may oppose it and to maintain righteousness how much soever it may be contemned. Weak, erring, creatures, as we are, we cannot unite these virtues without thy grace. Father of lights endue us with the wisdom which is first pure, then peaceable. Dispose all around us to a charitable construction of our motives and doings; shield us from all envy, and clamour, and malice, and all evil speaking. May we walk in his footsteps

who was at once holy and harmless—and experience that the work of righteousness is peace, and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever.

16. *God is love.* 1 John 4, 16.

A sweet but solitary beam,
An emanation from above,
Glimmers o'er life's uncertain dream,—
We hail that beam and call it Love !
But fainter than the pale star's ray
Before the moontide blaze of day,
Is all of love that man can know,—
All that in angel breasts can glow,—
Compared, O Lord of hosts with thine,
Eternal—fathomless—divine !

Divine love is manifested every where, give us eyes to behold and hearts to feel it. All animated nature exists in a state of gratification, and even the destruction of its individual forms diffuses and extends the sum total of enjoyment. But how impressively is it manifested in the nature, condition, and prospects of man. How fearfully and wonderfully made ! how exquisitely adapted to use and enjoyment, every organ of sense ! The eye is filled with agreeable prospects ; the ear is regaled with melodious sounds ; curiosity is gratified with perpetual variety ; the understanding has opened up to it a boundless range of delightful investigation ; every susceptibility of the soul, when rightly cultivated, becomes an inlet of happiness : even pain, while it is connected with many alleviations, is converted by divine grace into an instrument of good ! Heaven,

the destined home of the family of God, opened up to sinful beings by the incarnation and death of the Son of God—will set forth before all intelligences the infinitude of the love of God! Holy spirit, render us sensible to every touch of the divine benevolence ; awaken and perfect in us a corresponding affection : when Thou dwellest in the soul there is love, and love is heaven.

17. *They rest not day nor night : Rev. 4, 8.*

Now with triumphal palms, they stand
Before the throne on high,
And serve the God they love, amidst
The glories of the sky.

His presence fills each heart with joy,
Tunes every mouth to sing ;
By day by night, the sacred courts
With glad hosannahs ring.

Blessed worshippers, holy, spiritual intelligences, who know no weariness in the uninterrupted worship of Him who sits upon the throne. Ye need not the silence and repose of night—and there is no night in heaven. The Lord God Almighty and the Lamb is thy temple, and ye need no light of the sun neither of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God and the Lamb is the light thereof. O bright and beatific world! Sinless, happy region, that knows no darkening cloud ; where grief heaves no sigh, and sorrow drops no tear ; where the perfect vision of God diffuses perpetual and unmixed joy. Pity, O God, our ignorance and unbelief, which so much prevent our hopes from being attracted to

wards those regions of bliss. Alas ! the thick and hazy atmosphere of time too often conceals from our view the glories of the heavenly world ! Gracious God, take away this evil heart of unbelief, and so invigorate our faith that it may penetrate into the world unseen, and draw from its discoveries incitements to piety and benevolence. Give us grace to set our affections on things above—on Thee the ever blessed God, on Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, on the perpetual halleluiahs of the upper sanctuary, on the pure fellowship of angelic and redeemed beings. Compared with them, what has earth and time to charm an immortal ? Henceforth may every terrestrial attraction lose its power over us. May we be dead to the world, but alive unto God, and look forward to the hour in which this mortal shall put on immortality with joyful hope : and Oh may infinite, everlasting love, so lay its hand upon us that this hope shall not perish, but receive a perfect fruition before the throne of God and of the Lamb.

18. *It is finished : John 19, 30.*

“Tis finished”—Heaven is reconciled,
And all the powers of darkness spoiled:
Peace, love, and happiness again
Return and dwell with sinful men.

“Tis finished”—let the joyful sound
Be heard through all the nations round :
“Tis finished”—let the echo fly
Through heaven and hell through earth and sky.

Words of expiring agony but of delightful significance, thrilling the bosoms of all intelligent orders with wonder and joy ! Thy expiatory work, blessed Jesus, was finished with the utterance of these triumphant words ; divine justice was satisfied, the demands of the law were fulfilled, the holy character of God, our Governor, was illustriously vindicated; mercy shone forth in resplendent harmony with all the other attributes of the godhead, and divine grace was purchased that, as the final result of the Saviour's mediation, man might be reconciled to God, as God by the cross is reconciled to man. Incline us, Spirit of truth, to turn in faith continually to these scenes, since in their midst our hope and peace grow ; let suffering and salvation, the cross and the crown, the work of expiation with the work of sanctification, the death of the redeemer with the eternal life of the redeemed, be inseparably associated in our thoughts. Blessed Jesus, our Redeemer and Lord, Thou art now exalted to the right hand of the majesty on high, reinvested with that glory which thou hadst with the Father before the world was ; but Thou art still allied to humanity, and we would not forget the design of the alliance ; Thou didst suffer in the nature of man, and rise in triumph to heaven in that nature, to purchase and prepare for it a similar glorification. Contemplating this design with reverential gratitude, may we fervently pray that it may be accomplished in us. Crucified with Christ, may we also reign with him ; and when the far extended plan of redemption is finished in its application, as on the cross it was finished in its purchase, may we be found in concert with the redeemed, singing the song of Moses and of the Lamb.

19. *Let patience have its perfect work: James 1, 4.*

When darkness intercepts the skies,
 And sorrows waves around me roll,
 When high the storms of trouble rise,
 And half o'erwhelm my sinking soul,
 My soul a gracious calm shall feel
 When Jesus whispers—Peace be still.

Then in affliction's furnace tried,
 Unhurt, on snares and death, I'll tread,
 Though sin as ail, and hell thrown wide
 Pour all its names upon my head ;
 Like Moses's bush, I'll mount the higher,
 And flourish unconsumed in fire.

The spirit of truth has admonished us that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood only, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. The reign of sin is universal in this fallen world, and pain is a partner of the throne. God of mercy, translate us out of the kingdom of darkness into the kingdom of thy dear Son, that the sufferings which we may be called to endure, may have nought in them of the curse, but be fatherly chastisements for our profit : and if in thy benignant dispensation our trials should be severe, let thy grace so fortify our souls that tribulation may work patience, and patience experience, and experience hope. When we consider how averse we naturally are to suffering ; how sensitively the flesh shrinks from pain, and the soul from grief, we tremble lest we should faint in the evil day and despond when darkness cometh.

Be Thou, O God, the strength of our heart ; uphold us in the time of trouble ; when the streams of worldly comfort are dried up, may our consolations in thee abound. Keep in our remembrance that sinful flesh needs painful chastisement ; that our iniquities correct us and we are filled with the sins of our youth : what are all our griefs and troubles but the bitter fruits of what we have sown ? In our afflictions, therefore, may we never upbraid Thee : may we never sink so far in faithless impatience as to doubt either thy justice or benevolence : may we rather be filled with wonder and gratitude, that in a world where iniquity so much prevails, there should be so much good and so little evil mingled in the sinner's cup, and that even the portion of evil is to them that fear thee, medicinal. Divine spirit, engrave these sentiments upon our hearts, that in the midst of the furnace we may praise thy name, and come out of it as gold purified by the fire.

20. *For our light affliction which is but for a moment—2 Cor. 4, 17, 18.*

Whate'er thy providence denies
I calmly would resign ;
For thou art good and just and wise,
Oh bend my will to thine.

Whate'er thy sacred will ordains,
Oh give me strength to bear ;
And let me know my Father reigns,
And trust his tender care.

How cheering the light which the gospel sheds
upon this scene of tribulation through which we are

passing to immortality! Without this lamp we might have feared that we had fallen under the irrevocable displeasure of Heaven, and that the sufferings of time were but the presage of the miseries of eternity;—no hope would have gilded the gloom, and no water from the fountain of life refreshed our afflicted souls. But now the day-spring from on high hath visited us, revealing the true cause of suffering and its certain antidote. In that moment when the believer is united to the Redeemer the sting of death is removed; pain, its effect, is through divine grace converted into a spiritual benefit, until, the will of God being accomplished in our sanctification, the harmless smarting of the extracted sting shall be felt no more, and the child of God shall know that these light afflictions, which were but for a moment, wrought out for him a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. May celestial spirits ever more whisper these soothing discoveries in the ear of the afflicted; may the soul-sustaining words fall as the music of heaven upon the broken in heart, and give a foretaste of its bliss to mitigate the sorrows of mortality; may companions in tribulation strengthen in each other the patience of hope by reminding each other that their griefs are but for a moment, that the darkness will soon dissolve and the morning of an unclouded day be ushered in. Come then, and welcome, whatever our Father in heaven is pleased to appoint. It may be grievous for the moment, but it will yield the peaceful fruits of righteousness. Surrounded by unchangeable love, suffering or enjoying, living or dying, we are secure, until we are raised to that unsuffering kingdom, where mortality shall be swallowed of life.

21. *Forgive, and ye shall be forgiven—Luke 6, 37.*

Pardon Lord, and are there those
 Who my debtors are and foes ?—
 I, who by forgiveness live,
 Here their trespasses forgive.

May I feel beneath my wrongs,
 Vengeance to the Lord belongs ;
 Nor a worse requital dare,
 Than the meek revenge of prayer.

Surrounded with frail, erring, and selfish beings, like ourselves, so often falling short of their obligations of duty, misconceiving its claims, and always disposed to look upon their own things rather than upon the things of another, may we ever freely forgive those who have done us wrong, whether through inadvertence or design. May we never yield to unholy resentment ; never render railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing. May we be ready to forgive all who in backbiting and misrepresentation malign our name ; all who oppose and frustrate our reasonable endeavours ; all who are unfaithful in satisfying our just claims upon them ;—the unkindness of our friends, the waywardness of our children, the negligence of our servants, the rudeness of any with whom we are brought into casual intercourse. How frequent these causes of offence and how painful their accompaniments ! Teach us to look upon them as permitted by Thee for our chastisement and spiritual discipline : the rod is thine, may we meekly bear it and be formed to a chastened and submissive temper. Deepen within us the conviction that under thy righteous government they

37.

who do wrong are in worse case and more to be pitied than they who suffer it. Above all dispose us to look forward to thy tribunal where every one shall receive according to the wrong he hath done without respect of persons; and may this solemn anticipation inspire the fervent prayer that every thing may be counteracted and removed which might increase the terrors of that day. What should our condition and prospect be, O God, were Thou not slow to anger and of great mercy? Every day we are offending Thee and yet Thou restrainest from inflicting the punishment our iniquities deserve; nay, Thou dost not only *not* punish, but Thou heapest on us bounty upon bounty until thy mercy reacheth above the clouds. O Lord our God, to whom belongeth mercies and forgiveness, when we are offended may we think of our offences against thee, and be contrite, meek, and forgiving. Humbly trusting that thou hast blotted out our transgressions as a cloud, may we, in reviewing those painful passages of our life which have arisen from the injuries of our fellow men, consign all to the sea of a charitable oblivion, never to call them up again but with affectionate prayer for those who have done the wrong. Thus may charity reign in our hearts—forgiving, even, as for Christ's sake we hope to be forgiven.

22. *They have healed also the hurt of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace, when there is no peace. Jer. 6, 14.*

Peace is the gift I leave with you
 My peace to you bequeath,
 Peace that shall comfort you through life
 And cheer your souls in death.

I give not as the world bestows,
 With promise false and vain ;
 Nor cares, nor fears, shall wound the heart
 In which my words remain.

Avert from thy church that most dreadful of all calamities, a corrupt and unfaithful ministry, which, for the sake of covetousness and men-pleasing, shall delude the people with a false peace. Fill thy ministering servants with a holy fearfulness lest the blood of those whom they may have deceived should be required at their hands ; lest the upbraiding of the ruined should augment the intolerable anguish of their own doom. O God, endue them with the grace of thy Holy Spirit that they may be faithful to Thee, and to the people to whom they are appointed overseers. Enlighten and guide them at all times in their private studies that they may be suitably prepared for their public work. May they draw from the fountain of inspiration and always present unto their people the pure water of life—warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that they may present every man perfect before God. Make them faithfully terrific in declaring the judgments of God against such as do evil ; sweetly persuasive in beseeching sinners to be reconciled

unto God. Grant unto them a lively apprehension of the value of souls, and a burning desire to reclaim them from error and ruin. Oh forbid that the peace and security that the ungodly seem here to enjoy should blind those who are appointed watchmen in Zion to their real danger or induce them to suspend warning and entreaty. Teach them to estimate the dreadful state of such as are at enmity with Thee, and exposed to thy wrath ; to commiserate the wretchedness and degradation of those who will not contemplate, adore and love, the author of life, the Saviour of men ; let not the thoughtless smile that plays upon the sinner's face conceal from their spiritual guardians the worm that begins to prey upon the sinner's heart : enable them to expose the superficial and short-lived excellencies with which the natural mind is sometimes clothed, and from which it derives a false and momentary peace, & to lead the deluded one away from every refuge of lies, to the blood of sprinkling and the sanctification of the spirit. Thus healed by the physician of souls may they daily hear his comforting words : "Peace I leave with you ; my peace I give unto you ; not as the world giveth, give I unto you : let not your heart be troubled neither let it be afraid."

23. Have I been a wilderness unto Israel? a land of darkness? wherefore say my people we are lords, we will come no more unto thee? Jer. 2, 31.

Lord when we bend before thy throne,
And our confessions pour,
Teach us to feel the sins we own,
And shew what we deplore.



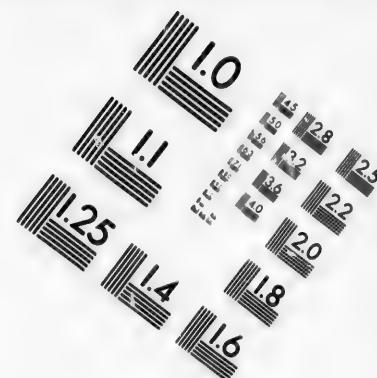
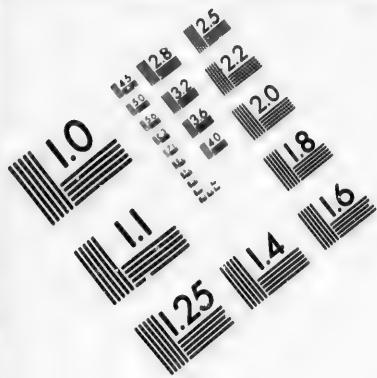
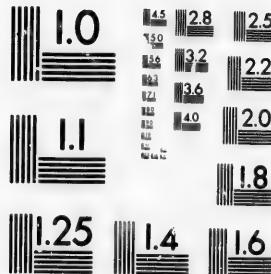
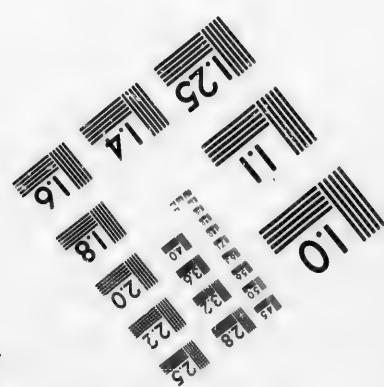
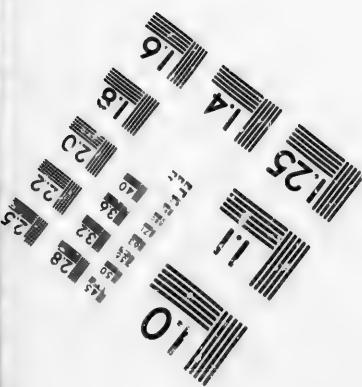


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Our contrite spirits pitying see,
 And penitence impart ;
 And let a healing ray from thee
 Beam hope upon the heart.

It is indeed one dark and aggravated feature of our sinfulness that it has been committed in the face of the utmost benignity on the part of our supreme benefactor. No temporal bounty has been withheld from us, no spiritual privilege denied. The lines have not fallen to us in a wilderness barren in those productions which are needful to sustain and comfort life ; neither do we dwell in a land of darkness, on which the sun of righteousness has shed no ray. Yet the abundance of our temporal enjoyments has not wrought in us a habitual gratitude ; nor have our ample means of religious improvement raised us to that intelligence and piety which we might have attained. Nay, we must confess that often for lengthened periods we have been deceived by such a vain conceit of our self-sufficiency, that we have said in our hearts.—“we are lords, we will come no more unto Thee,”—we will not honor the Lord Almighty as our benefactor, nor express our dependance upon him by thanksgivings and prayer : and we seemed to feel and act as if we did provide for, and protect ourselves by our own power and device !—Ah Lord, the great and mighty God, on whom the wide Universe depends, without whose sustaining power the breath that is in our nostrils would instantly depart, how blind, vain, ungrateful have we been ! We have indeed offended Thee, and we are verily guilty in thy sight. We have set at nought thy righteous authority, persisted in disobedience amidst accumulated favors, and withstood the persuasions of infinite love. Blinded by sin

and unconscious of its demerit, we fancied ourselves safe when on the brink of ruin, and seized with avidity the cup of earthly pleasure, heedless of every higher good, when only the intercession of the Saviour,—a Saviour forgotten and neglected, prevented the cup of thy indignation from being wrung out to us.—Awakened now to a sense of our guilt and danger, we shrink back from the precipice on which we stood,—we supplicate the mercy we so long delayed to ask,—we flee for refuge to Him whose gracious invitations we so long disregarded,—and broken and contrite in heart, weary and heavy laden with the burden of our iniquities, we implore the reconciliation, not denied to the chief of sinners who believe in his name.

24. *Lord, it is good for us to be here : Matt. 17, 4.*

Oft in his house his glory shines,
Before our wondering eyes :
We wish not then for golden mines
Or aught beneath the skies.

His presence sweetens all our cares,
And makes our burdens light ;
A word from him dispels our fears,
And gilds the gloom of night.

Jehovah, our God, it is good to be where Thou meetest with thy children to bless them,—to ascend Tabor away from the disturbances of earthly strife, and to enter within the veil of a select and spiritual fellowship waiting for the revelation of invisible things,—to contemplate the mighty results of redeeming love as they spread through all time and endure throughout eternity,—to stand on the holy mountain bright with the beams of the sun of righ-

sciousness, from which we can descry afar off the heavenly Canaan and the innumerable trophies of thy grace, who have entered it,—to know that we have come unto the heavenly Jerusalem and to an innumerable company of angels, are united to the saints of departed generations by the dearest ties, are of the same family with righteous Abel, that Enoch, who walked with God, affectionately acknowledges our relationship, that we are of the same spiritual lineage with the noble army of martyrs and confessors, that all in this and every age who have been the best benefactors of mankind are our brethren, that with them we are engaged in the service of God, and stand on the threshhold of immortality;—above all, to behold Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, not only in the abysses of his humiliation, but in that glory which he had with the Father before the world was, and in which he will come to judge mankind,—oh when we are thus blessed with the vision of spiritual things in heavenly places, we can leave the meaner cares of earth beneath us; our hearts throb with pure and happy sentiments, and in the depth of our gratitude we exclaim, Lord it is good to be here. Bestow upon us, O God, the frequent enjoyment of this blessed fellowship. Let us consecrate *ourselves* unto Thee as tabernacles for ever. In the hallowed retirement of the closet, around the domestic altar, within the sanctuary of thy house, make thyself known unto us as Thou dost not to the world; let the veil which conceals from us eternal things become more transparent before the gaze of faith and holy contemplation;—and may our whole life be filled with sweet remembrances and joyful anticipations.

25. *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. John 3, 3,*

Spirit of power and might, behold
 A world by sin destroyed!
 Creator spirit, as of old,
 Move on the formless void.

Give thou the word :—that healing sound
 Shall quell the deadly strife ;
 And earth again, like Eden crowned,
 Produce the tree of life.

The kingdom of God, like its King, is holy : nothing unclean can enter into it : when the angels sinned they were banished from its holy precincts : and how could sinful man be permitted to enter within them ?—The pure in heart alone can see thee, O God, and be blessed in the sight. The vision of thy countenance would awaken the torments of hell in the impure and guilty bosom. Unpardoned, we would tremble to behold Thee ; unsanctified, thy immediate presence would only aggravate our wretchedness ; unrenewed in heart, the holy exercises of heaven would be totally unsuited to our tastes and character ; by nature carnal and unholy, condemned by the law, averse from thy service, at enmity with God, and disqualified for any place in his spiritual kingdom, we must be renewed in the spirit of our mind ere we can be admitted there. With Thee, O God, dwells the renovating power ; thou hast created the soul, and Thou alone canst renew it ; in thee it lives, and from thee must be derived the new spiritual life ; all our capacities and powers are thy gift, and it is thine to heal their disorders, and direct them to their proper end and employment. Merciful Father,

quicken us from the death of sin to the life of righteousness ; create us anew in Christ Jesus ; confer on us the adoption of sons ; and being raised to such a resemblance of the divine image, as our frail nature can bear, may we rise at length into the fellowship of that blessed society of whom it is said, "these are they who have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb, therefore are they before the throne of God and serve him day and night in his temple."

26.—*making mention of you in our prayers,*
1. *Thes. 1, 2.*

Hast thou not bid me seek thy face ?
And shall I seek in vain ?
And can the ear of sovereign grace
Be deaf when I complain ?

Thy mercy-seat is open still,
There let my soul retreat;
With humble hope attend thy will
And wait beneath thy feet.

Heavenly Father, reconciled to us through Jesus Christ, so unite us in faith and love, to the whole body of the faithful, that we may have continual remembrance of them in our prayers ; and meeting often at thy throne of grace, may we enjoy the fellowship of the spirit, as a foretaste of the more perfect fellowship of the heavenly world. Endue all thy people with a wise and understanding heart, that they may abound in the knowledge of God ; render divine truth efficacious for their sanctification and comfort ; and so direct and uphold their goings that they may never depart from the right path : continuing sted-

fast and immovable in the work of the Lord, may divine grace be magnified in them and by them. In particular we would not fail to mention in our prayers those more nearly related to us, whether by the ties of nature or of grace. Receive them under thy merciful protection. Redeem them from all their iniquities. Bestow on them all temporal good. Shield them in the hour of danger. Be their consolation in the day of darkness. Animated with the sure and certain hope of a blessed resurrection, may they pass through the valley of death without fear of evil, and have an entrance ministered to them abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.—We thank thee, O God, and praise thy glorious name, for our relative ties and endearments. May the pleasures of them always be associated with the duties of them: and if in the manifold vicissitudes of life our fellowship should ever be interrupted, may our hearts and hopes still be one; though we be distant in locality may we be united in Thee; and before the throne of mercy may we continually make mention of each other in our prayers.

27. *The shadows flee away. Cant. 2, 17.*

Ye no more your suns descending,
Waning moons no more shall see;
But, your griefs for ever ending,
Find eternal noon in me.
God shall rise, and shining o'er you,
Change to day the gloom of night;
He the Lord, shall be your glory,
God your everlasting light.

The Sun of righteousness has arisen, dispelling
the dense clouds of ignorance and corruption,—shed-

ding upon the world the beams of truth and purity and peace. How long have the clouds lingered in our horizon, even when apparently dissolving and passing away ! Yet are we assured that every spot of darkness shall disappear, and the light shine brighter and brighter until the perfect day. We rejoice in anticipation of the time when every form of superstition shall be abolished ; when the gospel shall be proclaimed in every land ; when the distinct voice of the inspired oracles shall neither be misunderstood, nor disobeyed ; when righteousness and joy shall be the perennial fruits of the tree of knowledge ; when the cross of Christ shall, beyond all preceding example, demonstrate itself to be the power and the wisdom of God. Eternal praise to the triune godhead, that we in these latter days have seen so much of its blessed power. The thick night is broken ; nations that sat in darkness have seen a great light ; in many a benighted soul, not only hath the day star arisen but the healing beams of the sun are felt, and they now walk in the light even as God is in the light. Oh that this number were multiplied a thousand fold. O God, who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, by whose brooding spirit the chaos of nature was restored to order and beauty, let thy spirit give efficacy to the appointed means, that all moral perfection may grow up and flourish in thine heritage. We look onward in humble faith to the period when the whole earth shall be filled with the knowledge and the glory of God ; when thy tabernacle shall be with men, and Thou shalt dwell with them and be their God. Hasten it, O Lord, in thy time. Let thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth even as it is in heaven.

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